

Preview

A survey of London's thriving jazz clubs is contained in today's Preview, the 16-page guide to entertainments and the arts in Britain published each Friday with The Times.

New law chief for Scotland

Mr Peter Fraser, MP for Angus, South (above), has been appointed Solicitor General for Scotland. He replaces Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, dismissed by the Prime Minister last week for press comment in the Glasgow rape case. Mr Fraser, aged 36, an advocate at the Scottish Bar since 1969, was made FPS to Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, in November.

Husain to lead Gulf war force

King Husain has announced the formation of a contingent of Jordanian volunteers to be commanded by himself, to fight alongside the Iraqi army in its war with Iran. He made the announcement last night in Amman.

Lovesick youth hijacks bus

A lovesick French schoolboy armed with a pistol hijacked a school bus and forced the driver to take him to Holland where he wanted to visit his girlfriend. He was overpowered in Veldhoven, and the other children were freed unharmed. Back page.



Polish catalogue of US spies

Poland's head of counter-intelligence named Western diplomats among those who, he claimed, had been caught contacting Polish dissidents. In an attempt to counter American criticism of the military regime, he spoke of American moles, radio receivers, safe houses and dead drops in Poland. Back page.

Hostages freed

Guerrillas who hijacked a Colombian Boeing 727 freed their hostages and flew to the Caribbean island of San Andres in an executive jet. Their destination was not known. Earlier report, page 9.

Carron deported

Mr Owen Carron, MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, and his companion, Mr Danny Morrison, were deported yesterday from the United States to Canada.

Diplomat killed

Mr Kemal Arkan, the Turkish Consul General in Los Angeles, was murdered by Armenian gunmen who opened fire on his car in the city centre.

10pc mortgages

Mortgages at only 10 per cent were offered yesterday by the Building Trust, an unauthorised unit trust. But the loans will be index-linked and will increase with the house prices index. Page 15.

US mediator

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, hinted in public that he intended to appoint a special envoy to revive the stalled Israeli-Egyptian talks on Palestinian autonomy. Page 9.

Heron setback

Heron Corporation was refused a High Court injunction preventing the transfer of shares between Associated Communications Corporation and Mr Robert Holmes a Court. Page 15.

Leader page, 13.
Letters: On backing of The Times and the Sun, from Lord Hunt, and Mr Kenneth Morgan; scientific research, from Professor P. V. Danckwerts; Mr P. A. D. Whitmore; Mr Benn's speech, from Professor J. P. Stern, and Rabbi David J. Goldberg; Ireland: Trade Union Bill, Turkey: Features, page 10, 12.
A crack in the Red Brigades' power; David Watt on the Ulster challenge Mr Prior cannot avoid.

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Dozier freed in 90-second assault on Red Brigades

By Our Foreign Staff

Italian police yesterday broke into a flat in Padua and in 90 seconds without firing a shot freed Brigadier-General James Dozier in their most successful and spectacular operation against 10 years of Red Brigades terrorism. The 50-year-old general, deputy Chief of Staff at Nato's Southern European land forces headquarters at Verona, had been a prisoner of the Red Brigades for 42 days. Police sources said they had been watching the flat for three days in Via Pindemonte on the outskirts of Padua, about 50 miles from Verona, where the general was abducted. The decision was taken to go in this morning and at 11.36 a squad of specially trained anti-terrorist police broke down the door of the five-room apartment.

They confronted five terrorists, including one woman, who surrendered immediately. The general, gagged, barefoot and wearing a tracksuit was inside a tent. As they entered the room with the tent containing the general, the police were told to be pointing a pistol with a silencer at the general's head, apparently with a brief to shoot in an eventuality such as this. He was overcome.

The general was unharmed, but this did not mean the end of his ordeal. According to the police, his first words were "Thank you, marvelous, OK, police." After telephoning his wife, who is in West Germany, and the United States Ambassador in Rome, Mr Maxwell Rabb, General Dozier was taken to an American military base near Verona.

One of the terrorists was named as Antonio Savasta, believed to be a Venice Red Brigades leader, and another as his companion, Emilia Libera, also sought by police. A third suspect was identified as a 22-year-old Cesare Lombardo, previously unknown to police. Mr Rabb quoted General Dozier as saying to him over the telephone: "Now I'm fine but when the police broke in, a terrorist pointed his pistol against my forehead and I felt I thought my last minute had come."

A Padua police spokesman said General Dozier appeared to be in a state of shock when he was helped out of the tent. He was speaking half in English and half in Italian. He asked whether he was and when he was told the 28th he kept saying Giovedi, Giovedi (Thursday, Thursday), he said. "He asked for a milky coffee but did not want any food. He was very tired, but it is not surprising after what he has gone through. He is a wonderful man," the spokesman said.

He said that contrary to some reports that one of the guerrillas had been hit over the head with a pistol butt, "in fact he just banged his head against a wall." General Dozier will now spend some time undergoing medical checks in the American military hospital at Vicenza.

Admiral William Crowe, Nato's Southern European Commander-in-Chief in Naples, said: "The rescue of General Dozier was a very successful operation."



Mrs Dozier and her daughter Cheryl hold a news agency picture of the general wired to them in Frankfurt.

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A Carabinieri officer watches protectively over the bearded General Dozier at Padua police headquarters.

Cabinet agree to differ over Budget

By Julian Haviland

Political Editor
Despite wide differences of opinion, the Cabinet agreed to the Budget and the Government's strategy of reducing inflation.

The Prime Minister told the Commons: "We had an excellent Budget, a very useful discussion." The special session to discuss the Budget took place on the 28th of the three-hour weekly meeting and achieved one important aim. No senior minister will be able to complain when the Budget details are unveiled on March 9, that he or she had no voice in the shaping of it.

Details of possible tax changes were not discussed; they were left by agreement to the Chancellor's judgment next month. But when his colleagues learn his intentions on Budget day, there will be no repetition of last year's crisis when three members of the Cabinet, faced with having to support a heavy defeatist Budget, discussed resigning on the spot.

With overall levels of public expenditure for 1982-83 already agreed after considerable Cabinet argument in the autumn, the discussion yesterday was on how much revenue should be raised, or rather how much could be afforded in relief; and whether the corporate or the personal sector should benefit most from a rebalancing of the Chancellor provided.

Sir Geoffrey Howe had circulated a paper designed to concentrate discussion on the successes already achieved, successes he later listed in the Commons.

Benn plan to create full employment

Mr Wedgwood Benn yesterday produced a plan of action for the Labour government which he said would restore full employment by creating four million jobs (our Parliamentary Correspondent writes).

Speaking in the Commons during the debate on the economy, he swept aside criticisms from his former Cabinet colleagues, Mrs Shirley Williams, who said his plan appeared to totally forget the

Continued on back page, col 3

De Lorean axes 1,100 Belfast jobs as MPs protest

By Our Industrial Staff

About 1,100 out of 2,600 jobs are to be axed at Belfast's crisis-hit De Lorean car factory as part of the company's bid for survival. It was disclosed last night. This is double the figure feared by union leaders.

The announcement led to angry scenes in the Commons with MPs on both sides of the House criticising the company and the Government's involvement.

One of the most outspoken was Mr Alan Clark, Conservative MP for Plymouth, Sutton, who accused the Government of subsidising "the extravagant lifestyle of a lot of American car men."

The upsurge is certain to sour further relations between Mr John De Lorean and Whitehall. Last year he claimed that the company's image had suffered badly as the result of allegations made by Mr Nicholas Winterbottom, Conservative MP for Macclesfield, of financial irregularities — which police said later were unfounded — and three weeks ago he blamed United Kingdom Government delays for the failure of his company's Wall Street share flotation.

In Belfast, production, which has been scaled down dramatically, is to be cut even further in an attempt to carry the company's sales start to pick up in America.

Union leaders were told of the company's decision by Mr Don Lander, managing-director, who flew in from London for critical talks. Mr De Lorean flew to New York after a day of crisis talks in London. It is understood the mass

payoffs are to start immediately. The unions are believed to have accepted the inevitability of the redundancies because of the firm's cash-flow problems, the depressed American sales market, and the Government's outright refusal to give any more cash.

Workers are expected to be told officially of the company's survival package at a mass meeting today.

Mr De Lorean returned to America to prepare for the arrival of the management consultants, Coopers and Lybrand. They have been called in by the Government to review the financial affairs of his company in America and at the plant.

He is understood to be pressing ahead with fresh attempts to find independent finance to support the firm, which has already been backed by \$80m of taxpayers' money.

There are no immediate plans to cut more than 1,100 jobs, but production, which once reached 400 cars weekly, is being cut back.

De Lorean executives plan to reduce the number to 140 a week over the next three months. Since short-time working was introduced earlier this month, the rate has been 200.

The stainless steel pick-up car sells in the United States at \$25,000 (£13,700) but of the 7,500 so far shipped across the Atlantic, just over half have been sold.

According to top management, Mr De Lorean is still confident his company can pull through. "He is enormously de-

termined and still confident that he can succeed. We believe he can as well. It is just unfortunate that the market in America, which we needed, disappeared."

"But it will return in the spring, and sales will definitely pick up. Of that we are certain, because the car is a winner. John is a very serious businessman and not the American playboy some of us could make him out to be. His flamboyant reputation works against him here, but it's what we need in America, and that's what counts."

The future of the Government involvement rests with the management consultants, whose review of De Lorean's affairs and prospects over the next two weeks will be examined by Sir Kenneth Cork, one of the City of London's top accountants.

His final assessment will also be closely watched by dozens of firms who supply components to the company and who are now under serious threat.

Most are based in Britain, and, according to company sources, up to 10,000 jobs are involved.

Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, told the Commons that nothing in the Government's present words or actions should be taken as committing any further government assistance or comfort to the De Lorean companies.

De Lorean road block, Page 17

Inter-union tension high as rail talks fail

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Relations between the rail unions were at breaking point last night as hopes of an early independent inquiry into the train drivers' dispute started to fade.

Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR), went further than at any time in the four-week-old dispute in criticising publicly leaders of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) for reneging on their part of pay and productivity agreements that had averted a national rail strike in August.

At the same time, Mr Pat Lowry, Chairman of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, failed to persuade Mr Ray Buckton, Aslef general secretary, to agree to an inquiry on terms

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Government to compensate 400 closed shop rebels

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, plans to compensate some 400 workers dismissed between 1974 and 1980 because of Labour's closed shop legislation.

Under the Employment Bill, given its first reading yesterday, the Government will set up a £2m fund to make cash payments to employees who lost their jobs through conscientious objections to joining a union.

This is the biggest change in the Cabinet's proposed labour law reforms since they were published two months ago. As expected, the Bill exposes trade union funds to civil damages of up to £250,000 for each case of "unlawful action" by strike organizers.

Mr Tebbit said yesterday that Labour's industrial relations legislation enacted in 1974 and 1976 first created and

then consolidated a situation which was morally indefensible by sanctioning the dismissal, without compensation, of employees in a closed shop solely on the grounds of their non-membership of a specified trade union, even when they were existing employees or when their objection was based on grounds of conscience.

"The Government have always taken the view that this was wrong and we ended this injustice by the enactment of the 1980 Employment Act. We are now seeking in this Bill a power to enable the Government to compensate those who were dismissed in such circumstances while the 1974 and 1976 legislation was in force but who would have been protected if their case had fallen under the 1980 Act. I believe this will be widely welcomed."

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, described the proposal as "nothing more than a shabby public relations gimmick." The trade union movement aims to decide a strategy of opposition to the new laws at a special conference on April 5.

The Department believes that about 400 people were dismissed as conscientious objectors, but there may be more. The maximum figure likely to be awarded by a special assessor is £7,000 but the Government calculates that compensation could cost about £2m over the next 18 months.

Many of the closed shop rebels were dismissed by British Rail. They will be compensated in the same way as the Strassburg. Three of whom their case at the European Court of Human Rights. Others were employed in retail distribution, footwear, and other industries and by Labour-controlled local authorities.

What the Employment Bill will do

- Damages of up to £250,000 against unions through civil actions against "unlawful industrial action"
- Compensation of up to £20,000 for workers who lose their jobs for refusing to join a union where a closed shop exists
- The outlawing of union-labour-only contracts
- Selective dismissal of strikers who refuse to return to work
- Redefinition of "trade dispute" to exclude political and inter-union strikes
- Extension of state funds for ballots on wage offers

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Odds on O'Reilly for the election

By Alan Hamilton, Dublin, Thursday

He was bursing the bar of the Bailey off Grafton Street, gazing forlornly into his glass, where waited a shiny tennypenny piece with its leaping Irish salmon, his meagre change from a punt and a pint. "Jasus," he expostulated, "we'll soon be having a new unit of currency: the Guinness pound. If it gets any dearer, we'll turn into another Norway, brewing it in the backyard and drinking it with the blinds drawn."

For his refill he proffered a £12.7 note, the kind of note the Queen on it. But, despite the higher value of sterling, his change was the same. "Thieves," he muttered, scattering brown froth. "The country may be broke, but the publicans aren't."

The Irish government may have fallen on the issue of shirts and shoes—its proposal to slash 18 per cent VAT on the necessities of clothes and footwear—but the real face of the matter is gradually seeping into people's minds: the old country certainly is broke.

The thought of another general election only eight months after the last elicited yesterday's moaning but weary and fatalistic sighs. The parties have no money for a fight, and the electors have no stomach. "Whoever wins, we'll get the same old budget back again, give or take a shilling," pronounced a stout woman sipping whiskey. "We're paying now for the high old time we gave ourselves after we joined that Common Market."

The political leaders, with an election to fight, cannot afford the luxury of resigned fatalism. Dr E. J. Sheehy, who everyone calls "Garret," was first off the mark with his face up on lamp-posts by O'Connell Bridge before midnight on Wednesday. Mr Haughey, whose every one calls "Haughy," retaliated early this morning by nabbing the nearest lamp-post to the gates of Leinster House, where the Irish government sits when there is one.

Mr Charles Haughey, having come second in the race for the lamp-posts, was a clear winner of the race to hold the first election press conference. He looked sleekly confident, suggesting that he may have come fresh from consultations with Mr Kenny O'Reilly.

Mr O'Reilly is a prominent Dublin bookmaker, who this afternoon was offering 47 that Mr Haughey would lead the next government, and 64 that the coalition would stay in power. Mr O'Reilly is a man of greater political acumen than the average elector; last week he offered 10-1 that the Government would be defeated on the Budget, but not a single citizen accepted his offer.

Back in the Bailey, the pessimistic drinker concluded: "Whichever of them gets in, they'll have to put the price of drink up. And that'll ruin the social fabric of this country. The social fabric is held together by drinking. Another 10p on a pint of Guinness and they'll empty the pubs for good."

Cash crisis Page 2
Leading article Page 13

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Bill to curb spread of sex shops

Local authorities, given new powers under a Bill now before Parliament, will be able to refuse an application to open a sex shop or sex cinema in any area where they consider it would be inappropriate or offensive. (Our Political Staff writes).

That was announced yesterday when amendments were made to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, to give effect to a promise made before Christmas by Mr. Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office, when he told the Commons the Government was aware of the deep concern many people felt about the spread of sex shops.

Prison policy under attack

The government's present prison building programme will do virtually nothing to relieve overcrowding or improve conditions, according to Ms Vivien Stern, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

Assaulted man was deported

A Nigerian student who said he had been kicked so badly by a British police officer in 1977 that he had to have a testicle removed was jailed in 1979 for four months for breaching immigration controls and was later deported to Nigeria. It was disclosed yesterday (Lucy Hodges writes).

The student, who has not been named, had entered Britain as a visitor in 1973, and in 1975 was granted asylum in this country. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board has since awarded him £1,500 after concluding that he was assaulted. The police have also given him £4,000 in an out-of-court settlement.

No more help for GLC fares

There will be no more government help to bail out the Greater London Council over cheap fares, said David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, made clear last night. (Our Transport Correspondent writes).

In a blistering comment on the warning yesterday by Mr. Kenneth Livingstone, the GLC leader, that fares might have to go up another 50 per cent in the summer, after the 100 per cent in March, Mr. Howell said that "preaching confusion and chaos for political ends" served no useful purpose for London Transport.

Belfast man on explosion charge

John Gabriel McComb, aged 28, of Arran Street, Belfast, appeared at Marylebone Court yesterday, accused of plotting to cause explosions in Britain during the last two years. He was charged with conspiring to cause explosions in Britain during the last two years. He was charged with conspiring to cause explosions in Britain during the last two years.

Test tube inquiry

Test tube baby techniques are to be examined by a special committee of doctors to be set up by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Detective cleared

Det. Chief Inspector Maurice Gierston, aged 42, of Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey, the former head of Humberstone Drugs Squad, was acquitted at York Crown Court yesterday on three charges of inciting burglary.

Terror detentions

Two hundred and seventy four people were detained under the counter-terrorism laws during 1981, compared with 537 in 1980. In 1975, the first full year when the laws were in force, detentions reached a peak of 1,067.

Looking ahead

The Sunday Times has decided to advance publication of the proposed "Look" section of its colour magazine from April to March 14.

Corrections

Revelation of personal tax allowances in line with last year's 12 per cent inflation, as outlined in the Finance Act 1980, would not cut the weekly tax bill by £5 a week for 21 million married taxpayers, as reported yesterday, but by only £1.50. Only the income liable to taxation would be reduced by £5 a week. For those receiving the single allowance the tax cut would be 98p a week, not £3.27, for those receiving married allowance the cut would be £1.91, not £3.37, and for those on single allowance, £1.27, not £4.23 a week.

Prior's rolling devolution plan upsets Tories

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr. James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was given a mixed reception by Conservative backbenchers last night when he told them he was determined to proceed with his plans for devolved government in Ulster.

He continued to a private meeting of the backbench Northern Ireland committee that he wants to set up an elected assembly in Ulster which would either nominate or elect an executive to administer powers granted to it under a system of "rolling devolution".

The concept envisages powers being gradually devolved as the new system of government develops. Although he did not use the emotive phrase "power sharing" which has overtones of failure, Mr. Prior made clear that under his ideas no powers would be devolved until there is agreement of a "weighted majority" of members of the assembly.

If that majority was 70 per cent, as he suggested it might be, proposals for devolution would need to be carried by a 70 per cent majority.

Mr. Prior told MPs that he was anxious that there should be devolution as quickly as possible. Prospective members of the assembly would need to feel that the assembly would not be just a talking shop.

He had not expected unqualified backing from last night's meeting and after several speakers including Mr. Ian Paisley, Mr. Roy Starkey, Mr. Peter Cox, and Sir Nigel Fisher, had expressed their opposition, Mr. Prior said that to do nothing would be the worst of all options. There was a feeling among the people that there must be a way forward and he wanted to capitalize on it.

The general election campaign in the Irish Republic began yesterday with both leading parties united in believing that one of the main issues facing the electorate is the parlous state of the economy and that tough measures were needed from whoever emerges victorious in three weeks' time (Richard Ford writes from Dublin).

Rail tunnel choice for Channel link likely

By Our Transport Correspondent

The British and French governments are expected to choose a single-bore rail tunnel for the Channel link within the next two months. Whether it will be a six-metre tunnel through trains only, or a seven-metre tunnel for both road and rail traffic, remains an open question.

That means that promoters of bigger schemes like the British Steel Corporation's huge bridge and tunnel with offshore islands look like being disappointed. After exhaustive discussions between Mr. David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, and the eight promoters and between British and French officials, after last summer's summit meeting, between Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Mitterrand, the bored tunnel has emerged as clear favourite on grounds of speed, cost, and technical feasibility.

One surprising feature is the lack of interest by British Rail in the "mousehole" tunnel for through trains only, which last autumn seemed to have lost ground to the larger seven-metre tunnel in the belief that the latter would make a larger contribution to the economy and to Anglo-European trade, and would be easier to finance.

Mr. Bob Barron, British Rail's senior executive working on the project, claimed yesterday that the small tunnel now favoured is a "better financial return than the larger one".

The Social Democratic Party in the London borough of Camden plans to promise residents to keep rate rises beneath the level of inflation. According to the party's unpublished draft manifesto for the local elections in May, it to be discussed with the Liberals, that will bring "a new element of discipline" into the spending of a council which under Labour control, has levied some of the highest cash rates in the country.

The SDP would gradually raise council house rents in the area by between £2 and £5 a week, in addition to the minimum 3 per cent increase imposed by the Government.



Tories pick solicitor for Hillhead

From John Witherow, Glasgow

The Conservatives said last night that Mr. Gerald Malone, a solicitor, would be the party's candidate in the Hillhead election in Glasgow. He was selected soon after the Liberal-SDP Alliance disclosed that two former Labour parliamentary candidates in the constituency had joined the SDP.

Mr. Malone, aged 31, has fought and lost three general elections and has some experience of taking on party leaders. In 1979 he lost to Mr. David Steel, the Liberal leader, by a 10,000 majority at Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles.

Although a Roman Catholic in a predominantly Protestant constituency, he has the advantage over Mr. Roy Jenkins, the SDP Alliance candidate, of being a local man, educated at Glasgow University.

He said last night: "We are going to fight an enthusiastic campaign with a united party. We do not believe we shall lose and we shall be fighting a campaign on issues, not on personalities."

Mr. Malone's endorsement came as a surprise after Mr. Leonard Turpie, also a solicitor, failed to be chosen for the final selection meeting last night, when about 150 members of the Conservative Association voted by secret ballot after a two-hour meeting.

Mr. Turpie had been considered until recently as the favourite to succeed Mr. Thomas Gallagher, who died earlier this month after holding the seat for 33 years. His majority in the last general election was 2,002.

But Mr. Turpie was not selected for the final run off and Mr. Malone defeated Mr. Robert Kernohan, a journalist and former member of the Conservative Central Office in Scotland.

Earlier, Mr. Jenkins, on a brief visit to Glasgow, took delight in announcing that Mr. David Walsh, who fought the general election in Hillhead in 1974 for Labour, and Mr. Vincent Cable, a contender in the 1970 election, had joined the SDP.

They are immensely welcomed by the former deputy leader of the Labour Party said.

Mr. Welsh, aged 42, a school teacher, comes from solid Labour stock and his departure would widen the gap between EEC and world commodity prices and set back any serious attempt to reform the common agricultural policy.

The Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance said the move would add a further £37m a year to the industries' bill. More than three-quarters of the foodstuffs they purchased were covered by the CAP.

Mr. Alex McClelland, chairman of the alliance's joint supply committee, said that increases on such a scale ran directly counter to the British Government's efforts to reduce the rate of inflation. He called on Mr. Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to isolate Britain from the effects of the commission's proposals by revaluing the green pound.

Mrs. Kate Foss, chairman of Consumers in the European Community Group, described the proposals as once again increasing the gap between production and consumption.

Even with a 4 per cent revaluation of the "green pound", the proposals would mean increases in the prices of flour, bread, sugar, butter, beef, poultry, eggs, bacon and pork, as well as many manufactured goods.

But the National Farmers' Union described the price proposals as inadequate. They would do little more in real terms than hold farming incomes in 1982 at about the very depressed levels of the last two years, it said.

The continuing severe pressures on the industry were illustrated by the fact that outstanding bank advances were well over three times as large as five years ago. Borrowing was needed in the main merely to maintain current operations, and investment in buildings, machinery and works had declined.

Clergy seek right to be MPs

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

A move to change the law so that clergy of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church would be eligible to stand for Parliament has been started in the General Synod of the Church of England.

A motion to that effect has been tabled by the Archbishop of Derby, the Ven. R. S. Duff, and has received sufficient members' signatures in support to guarantee it debating time at the synod's meeting next month. Coincidentally, the issue has recently been raised by the provisional adoption of Rev. Malcolm Smart, the vicar of Great Gaddesdon, Middlesex, as prospective Labour candidate for Bexley, Erith and Crayford. He stated that he was seeking release from Holy Orders, although he would prefer not to, so that he could take his seat if elected.

The repeal of the Disqualification of the Clergy Act of 1901 would cover all who are in common law, in Holy Orders, including, therefore, priests of the Roman Catholic and of the Orthodox churches.

Clergy of the Free churches are not regarded as in Holy Orders in this context, and a few have been elected to Parliament in the past. However, present church unity proposals before the Church of England and the Methodist and United Reformed churches would, if implemented, bring Free church ministers of those churches within the scope of the 1901 ban.

In circles concerned with church-state relations the issue of clergymen in the Commons is usually coupled with the place of Church of England bishops in the Lords. Although church leaders have said in the past that they were prepared to see that privilege reviewed in the context of a general reform of the Lords, they would not, and since the Reformation, a royal command has been delivered to the chapter at the time of the election, naming the man to be elected. Penalties for defying the royal will used to be a large embarrasment, and since the Reformation, the Synod will also consider a change in the rule requiring all clergy to take an oath of allegiance to the Queen before accepting certain offices in the Church of England. This has sometimes prevented Anglican clergy who are not British subjects, particularly from countries like the United States, from accepting positions.

Anger over agriculture price rise proposals

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The European Commission's proposals for a 9 per cent increase in agricultural prices have provoked a storm of anger among farmers, the food industry and consumer groups alike.

Mr. Cyril Coffin, director general of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, described the proposed increases as a "severe blow".

Higher prices for important raw materials like cereal, milk products and sugar would make it difficult for manufacturers to continue keeping the prices of their own products below the rate of inflation, he said.

Moreover, if the package were to be accompanied by revaluation of the "green pound", which the federation would certainly press for, "it would widen the gap between EEC and world commodity prices and set back any serious attempt to reform the common agricultural policy."

The Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance said the move would add a further £37m a year to the industries' bill. More than three-quarters of the foodstuffs they purchased were covered by the CAP.

Mr. Alex McClelland, chairman of the alliance's joint supply committee, said that increases on such a scale ran directly counter to the British Government's efforts to reduce the rate of inflation. He called on Mr. Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to isolate Britain from the effects of the commission's proposals by revaluing the green pound.

Mrs. Kate Foss, chairman of Consumers in the European Community Group, described the proposals as once again increasing the gap between production and consumption.

Even with a 4 per cent revaluation of the "green pound", the proposals would mean increases in the prices of flour, bread, sugar, butter, beef, poultry, eggs, bacon and pork, as well as many manufactured goods.

But the National Farmers' Union described the price proposals as inadequate. They would do little more in real terms than hold farming incomes in 1982 at about the very depressed levels of the last two years, it said.

The continuing severe pressures on the industry were illustrated by the fact that outstanding bank advances were well over three times as large as five years ago. Borrowing was needed in the main merely to maintain current operations, and investment in buildings, machinery and works had declined.

Mr. Richard Butler, the NFU president, last night argued for the full 16 per cent increase requested by COPA, the European federation of farmers' unions.

Condemning what he called "thoughtless and cruel" remarks about the alleged prosperity of farmers, he told the annual meeting of the NFU's Isle of Wight branch that net farm income in the United Kingdom was nearly £300m less in 1980 than in 1976. When allowance was made for inflation, real income had declined by over 50 per cent in those four years.

Rural areas 'should have single ministry'

A national policy for rural areas should be coordinated by a single ministry, the Commons Agriculture Committee was told.

The most explicit demand came from the Scottish Landowners' Federation which, in its written evidence to the committee, observed that one of the main difficulties facing rural communities was that different problems and different land uses were the responsibility of different departments.

But there seemed to be a consensus, both among representatives of landowners and farming organizations and among MPs on the committee, that the present disjointed system was unsatisfactory and led to unnecessary conflict.

Asked by Mr. Douglas Hogg, Conservative MP for Grantham, whether such a coordinating role might be given to, say, the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Rodney Swarbrick, chairman of the Agriculture and Land Use subcommittee of the Country Landowners' Association, said he would support the idea.

In its written evidence, the association said that, if EEC policies were to have any real impact on the problems of remote areas, they needed to encourage entrepreneurs of all descriptions and not just farmers.

The Scottish Federation said there was an urgent need for a Community rural policy with objectives similar to those of EEC directive 75/268, which established special financial aids to farmers in less favoured areas, but should be quite independent of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Ministry of Defence last night denied that farmers who were helped by the RAS during the recent Arctic weather would face exorbitant bills. The ministry would be reimbursed by the Ministry of Agriculture, which called in the military aid (The Press Association reports).

EEC milk prices, page 10

Science report

Protecting the waters of Europe

By Tony Samstag

A consortium of Dutch environmental protection groups is organizing an international tribunal on water pollution to be held in Rotterdam next year. Much of the evidence is already on record, and a booklet outlining some of the more alarming statistics concerning the Rhine and the North Sea in particular is being sent to the 65 other European agencies involved.

Since the nineteenth century, the Dutch scientists have practically disappeared from the Rhine and Main river systems. In the past 25 years the population of seals in the Dutch Waddenzee has declined from 5,000 to 500, and fish and mussels from the North Sea and Waddenzee require continual monitoring to ensure that they are fit to eat.

Water authorities in Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands have identified about 2,000 different toxic impurities in Rhine water; even so, one estimate suggests that three quarters of the impurities present are as yet unidentified. The Rhine is an important source of drinking water in the region.

Companies using Rhine water for the production of drinking water issue an annual report on the quality of the river water. In 1980 the Rhine carried, inter alia, the following substances across the Dutch-German border near Lobitz: mercury, 16 tons; arsenic, 322 tons; cadmium, 80 tons; lead, 1,200 tons; copper, 280 tons; oil, 8,900 tons; phenols, 40 tons; chlorinated hydrocarbons, 48 tons; polychlorobenzene, 3 tons; 3,4-benzopyrene, 4 tons; polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), 20 tons.

Dumping, quasi-legal and otherwise, by Rhine and other rivers (including the North Sea, the British) continues despite such international measures as the European Water Charter and the Convention on the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution. The booklet's authors note.

The tribunal organizers clearly expect a "verdict" which, properly orchestrated, could prove a huge embarrassment to the governments concerned.

Source: The Problem of the Water (Stichting International Water Tribunal, Damsk 37/1) 1012 LK, Amsterdam.

Mothers-to-be warned about too much dieting

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Excessive slimming among women at the time when they conceive can reduce their chances of having a healthy baby, it was said yesterday.

Mrs. Margaret Wynn and Mr. Arthur Wynn, a scientist, authors of a new report, are warning of a growing trend among new-born children, said that a woman's dietary, smoking and drinking habits at the time of conception are more likely to affect the health of her baby than her habits later in pregnancy.

"For parents to eat well before conception and during early pregnancy is shown by world medical records to be more important than the mother's diet late in pregnancy, when the unborn baby has much greater capacity for coping with the needs from the mother and for looking after himself," Mr. Wynn said.

"Many medical drugs and pollutants are also most damaging around the time of conception and in early pregnancy," Mr. Wynn said.

Mr. Wynn said that common medical drugs such as aspirin and codeine increase the risk particularly for women who are ill-fed.

A blood test could help doctors to diagnose depression more accurately and markedly improve its treatment, a symposium at The Priory hospital, Northampton, London was told yesterday (Nicholas Marmore writes).

The test, known as the "dexamethasone" - suppression test, measures the response of a particular hormone in the blood to a synthetic steroid.

The hormone level in patients whose depression is due to a biochemical or other unhappy event drops markedly. But in those depressed by a more chronic process, the hormone levels remain high.

Dr. Alec Coppen, director of the Medical Research Council, Neuro-Psychiatry Research Laboratory at Epsom, whose laboratory is heading a World Health Organisation study on the test, said it seemed to be very sensitive. In one set of studies 81 per cent of patients who had been diagnosed by conventional means as suffering from endogenous depression produced the abnormal response.

If further studies confirm its early promise, the test should enable doctors to select the right drugs to treat different types of depression, he said.

The test will be used also to discover when recovery is taking place. If treatment is halted too early patients relapse, but there are widely differing opinions among doctors on how long treatment should last to prevent that happening.

"This is an exciting development, which if it lives up to its promise could markedly improve the treatment of depression," Dr. Coppen said. "It is a relatively simple and cheap test and could certainly be used by general practitioners."

The Prevention of Banting of Early Pregnancy Origin, by Mrs. Margaret Wynn and Mr. Arthur Wynn, is published by the Foundation for Education and Research into Childbirth, 10 Walpole Street, London SW5 4QS.

Art evidence delay denied

By Gerakine Norman, Sales Room Correspondent

Mr. John Baskett, chairman of the Society of London Art Dealers, said yesterday that the society's lawyers were still in possession of evidence on the issue of the buyers' premiums introduced last year by Sotheby's and Christie's.

Mr. Baskett, who announced earlier this year that the society would be leading the material to the Office of Fair Trading, was replying to charges of unnecessary delays.

The society and the British Antique Dealers Association, have instructed their lawyers to hand over the evidence in full. However, Waterhouse and Co. job sorting the files into order.

Mr. Richard Cresswell, of Waterhouse, said yesterday that the sorting could take a few more days. Sorting papers, which had been introduced as evidence by the auctioneers to support points they originally intended to make in court, was one of the delaying problems he cited. A High Court action brought by the dealers against Sotheby's and Christie's was settled out of court last September.

Mr. Cresswell said that his firm had written to the office of Fair Trading last week to let them know that the material was on its way.

The Office of Fair Trading confirmed yesterday that they had received the letter.

Overseas sell'n' prices

Austria set 28, Bulgaria 30, 0.65; Belgium set 28, 40; Canada 30; Denmark 30, 12; France 30, 12; Germany 30, 12; Greece 30, 12; Italy 30, 12; Japan 30, 12; Korea 30, 12; Luxembourg 30, 12; Netherlands 30, 12; Norway 30, 12; Portugal 30, 12; Spain 30, 12; Sweden 30, 12; Switzerland 30, 12; Taiwan 30, 12; Thailand 30, 12; United Kingdom 30, 12; USA 30, 12; Yugoslavia 30, 12.

Ministers blamed for inaction over legal aid

By Marcel Berlins, Legal Correspondent

Two reports published yesterday castigate the Government for its lack of action over legal aid, its failure to introduce urgently needed extensions and improvements to the system, and for wasting public money.

The Law Society and the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Aid, in separate reports published jointly, call in particular for legal aid to be made available to parents in danger of having their children taken away from them in care proceedings, and for representation for applicants before mental health review tribunals.

Their general comments, however, rather than their specific recommendations, disclose the depth of frustration felt by those involved in administering the legal aid system.

"The continued failure to make a move in virtually any direction in the legal aid field, even when reforms are almost universally agreed to be desirable, multiplies the legal aid scheme," the Law Society says. "It is not just that the last five years have been largely wasted. There is the effect of immobilising the originators of ideas. They are likely to give up trying to improve the system."

Dr Ronald Tress, chairman of the advisory committee, says in a preface that there were some obvious moves to be made: "better improvements and extensions which would add significantly to the quality of the legal aid system at modest expense; better arrangements in and around the courts which, if implemented, would yield savings which more than matched the cost of improvements and extensions. . . . Inertia has its own price, paid by people whose rights go unenforced or whose cases go undefended."

Both groups comment on the difficulties of introducing savings and reforms when responsibility for the legal aid system is spread among different government departments and for representation for applicants before mental health review tribunals.

The reports express concern and dismay that the financial legal aid limits last year did not keep up with inflation, with the result that there was a drop in the number of people eligible for legal aid.

It would be a scandal, the advisory committee says, if the pioneering Bristol conciliation service had to close for lack of funds. In fact, the Bristol scheme expects to hear details soon of a last-minute offer of reprieve.

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New chance for kidney patients

From John Chartres, Handforth, Cheshire

More than 100 doctors and nurses from hospitals in the North-west of England were told yesterday of the opportunities available to them for the treatment of kidney patients by CAPD (continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis).

The conference was addressed and partly chaired by Dr Ram Gokal, consultant physician at Manchester Royal Infirmary, formerly of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and expert in the treatment of renal failure. It was called because of an assessment that enough is known in general medical circles about the success of the treatment in Britain during the past two years.

Those favouring the extended use of the treatment estimate that the lives of another 2,000 people in the United Kingdom could be extended by up to 10 years if it was used more, and if the National Health Service gave more financial backing.

The average cost per year for a patient being treated in hospital, at home, at work, in school, or even on holiday, is put at about £5,000, compared with between £7,000 and £8,000 a year for home dialysis using conventional kidney machines and £12,000 to £14,000 for patients treated in hospital.

Among advantages claimed for the treatment, which was developed in the southern parts of the United States, are the freedom conferred on patients, enabling them to travel and carry out normal social and working lives, its suitability for the elderly and those suffering from diabetes or other illnesses, and indications that patients using it feel much better than when having used conventional machines either in hospital, or at home.

Mrs Phyllida Bradshaw, aged 33, of Bollington, Cheshire, who had been ill since the age of 19, was introduced to the treatment at Manchester Royal Infirmary early last year.

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Council inquiry into chief's plan to marry

From Our Correspondent, Ludlow

A council has decided to set up a committee of inquiry into matters surrounding the relationship between its woman chairman and the chief executive.

Three councillors and a barrister will consider the position of Mr Norman James, aged 55, chief executive of the Wyre Forest District Council, Hereford and Worcester, who recently announced his intention of divorcing his wife and marrying Mrs Jean Munslow, the council chairman.

Councillors decided by 21 votes to 13, during a meeting in closed session, not to suspend Mr James during the investigation. Mrs Munslow remained in the chair during the meeting.

The committee of inquiry has also been instructed to look into any related matters that may come to its attention. Some councillors are known to be concerned that the relationship may breach the local government code of conduct.

After the meeting Mr Graham Ballinger, chairman of the council's planning and highways committee, announced his immediate resignation from the council. He said he believed an impartial investigation would be impossible unless Mr James was suspended.

"I am concerned about the attitude the chief executive has adopted throughout this matter," Mr Ballinger said. "I am also concerned that public money is being spent to employ a legal adviser from outside when the whole matter is bound to be cramped by the presence of the person they are looking into."

"I question the ability of any inquiry to investigate the capability and credibility of a senior member of the authority while that member of staff remains in post. It is naive to assume that any inquiry could be impartial while the chief executive has full access to all departments."

Anger over child road deaths

By Peter Waymark, Motoring Correspondent

A highway code for children was launched yesterday by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Under-Secretary of State for Transport, amid controversy over the number of child pedestrian casualties.

The Pedestrians' Association claims that there has been little improvement in the safety of child pedestrians over the past 20 years and that the effect of government campaigns has been negligible.

Mr Clarke retorted that child casualty figures had dropped sharply during the 1970s and said that that was due to the introduction of the Green Cross Code for crossing the road, as well as to the efforts of parents, teachers and road safety officers.

He added that the trend was particularly encouraging when set against the big increases in traffic over the period, although, he said, one in every 15 children who die before the age of 14 die in road accidents.

The Pedestrians' Association case is largely based on Department of Transport figures showing that more child pedestrians were killed and seriously injured in 1980, 1,893, than in 1958, when the total was 6,640.

However, the 1980 total represents a big improvement when compared with the levels of the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1970, the figure was 11,607 and in 1972, the first full year of the Green Cross Code, 11,502.

The new code, *A Highway Code for Children*, has been produced by the County Road Safety Officers' Association, with help from the Department of Transport. It will be available from local authority road safety departments.

It is intended for children aged nine and over to read and also to help parents and teachers to instruct children.

The code's 20 pages cover walking, cycling, riding in cars, use of buses, riding horses and control of dogs. The initial print was 300,000 copies.

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Sir Thomas restored to glory on his own land

In a studio in Chelsea, London, which was once a stable on Sir Thomas More's farm, the restoration has just been completed of one of the most important English paintings, a sixteenth-century portrait of Sir Thomas More and his family (Christopher Warman writes).

Mr Patrick Corbett, who has spent 15 months restoring the large canvas, obtained the studio for the commission, partly to give Sir Thomas the chance to return home. The picture is owned by Lord St Oswald and has been hanging at his home at Nostell Priory in West Yorkshire since the early eighteenth century,

when it arrived from a descendant of Margaret Roper, Sir Thomas's daughter. It has been described as the most important English painting, and it is certainly a landmark in European painting. Mr Corbett says it was the first group portrait painted north of the Alps.

The painting is based on a pen and ink drawing by Hans Holbein dated 1526, done soon after the painter arrived in England from Basle with a letter of introduction to Sir Thomas from Erasmus. There are other versions of the picture: in the National Portrait Gallery, by Rowland Locky, and in the Victoria and

Albert Museum, but there is disagreement about its authorship. "It is undoubtedly superior to the other versions, and if it is by Locky it is his master work", Mr Corbett says.

Some claim it was at least started by Holbein, but most experts believe it dates from about 1590. Mr Corbett says warily that it is sixteenth century and has sent a fragment of the canvas to Professor Paul Damon, in Arizona, to attempt to give it a more accurate assessment from a cellulose-dating technique.

The picture shows Sir Thomas and his family at Well

Hall, Eltham, Kent, the home of his daughter Margaret Roper. He is shown at the age of 50, which puts the family scene in the year 1527, at the height of his power and prestige, eight years before his execution on the order of Henry VIII in 1535.

The painting, which will be returned to Nostell Priory in the next week or two to go on show once more, survived a fire there in 1980. The firemen doused the wall behind the picture, rather than the picture itself, to save it.

This is only the third time it has been restored. It was first restored in the 1760s by Sir James Thornhill.

Pope to tour scene of Toxteth riots

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

The Pope will tour the Toxteth area of Liverpool when he visits the city in May. His route will take him along the street which was the scene of civil violence last July. His motorcade will travel along Upper Parliament Street where mobs faced thousands of policemen during the six days of rioting.

The visit has caused problems for the police. Merseyside County Council has said it cannot afford the estimated £600,000 in police overtime pay alone. It is appealing to the Government for financial help.

More than a million people are expected to line the whole of the 11-mile route from Liverpool airport to the Anglican and Catholic cathedrals where the Pope will conduct services for Christian unity on May 30.

Protestant extremists have threatened to disrupt the visit and tens of thousands of Irish Catholics are also expected to come to see the Pope. A spokesman for the Liverpool Catholic Archdiocese said: "We are absolutely delighted that the Pope's motorcade will be travelling yesterday to show 'an act of thorough Toxteth. After all national faith' in Merseyside."

terrific boost to the morale of the people that live in the area."

"I am sure that, like everywhere else the Pope will go in Liverpool, there will be thousands of people there to see him."

The news was given a cool reception from black community leaders in the area. Mr Michael Showers of the Liverpool 8 Defence Committee said: "We wrote to his Holiness sometime ago asking him to come to Toxteth and view the problems first hand. Obviously we are pleased he will be driving through the area, but then Mrs Thatcher did the same thing. What good does a car ride do? It doesn't achieve anything."

"We would like to show the Pope the institutionalized racism that operates in Liverpool."

Mr Michael Montague, the chairman of the English Tourist Board, has said a big tourist campaign could transform Liverpool into a thriving centre of leisure and business. He called on businessmen and politicians to show "an act of thorough Toxteth. After all national faith" in Merseyside."



Michael Scott, at Lord Halifax's estate, near York.

Game for a first

From Our Correspondent, York

When Michael Scott first donned his deer stalker he raised a few aristocratic eyebrows. For at 30 he had fulfilled an ambition to lay claim to the title of Britain's first black gamekeeper.

After hundreds of letters in search of a worthwhile job he settled in as head man on a 2,500-acre estate owned by Lord Halifax's family, near York. And no one caused a flap when he made his debut in charge of the game for this season's shooting.

"I've lived in the country all my life and you don't find much prejudice here," he said yesterday. "My bosses are more bothered about how well I do the job than the colour of my skin. There is a lot of competition for the few jobs in gamekeeping and if there was any racial bias I wouldn't have stood a chance."

"In addition to any serious problems arising out of failure, such as the employee putting his hand in a machine or putting poison in the pork pies, there is the day-to-day risk of such an employee who has failed the test not being as receptive to orders as an employee who has passed."

There was evidence that the company was making losses.

Reading test broke Race Act

By Lucy Hodges

A Northampton food manufacturing company which asked job applicants to read safety signs in English before being taken on, has been found to have broken the Race Relations Act.

Henry Telfer Ltd of Northampton employs 1,200 people of whom about 19 per cent were born abroad. Last year the personnel manager decided to introduce a literacy test for job applicants, which involved reading signs written in English. In doubtful cases candidates had to read one sign in health and another on safety.

Following that, three people, one born in India and two in Italy, were refused jobs. They complained to an industrial tribunal, with the help of the Commission for Racial Equality, and the tribunal decided by two votes to one that the company had indirectly discriminated against Messrs Giuseppe Laporta and Alfredo Marrazo and against Mrs Manjula Shah.

In a written decision the tribunal said it did not think the literacy test was justified, and the company could have made more use of pictorial signs. The two men had considerable experience of factory work and had encountered no problems and added the ruling, many other immigrants in efforts who had not done the test were working satisfactorily.

"Obviously, members of an immigrant community will have problems in reading written English. If they cannot get this type of work what type of work will they be able to obtain? It will severely harm their employment prospects. It will have a disproportionate effect on this community."

The tribunal added that the way to resolve the difficulty of people not being able to read important signs was for their fellow employees to tell them what they meant. "We think it more likely than not some of the existing workforce could not read the signs when they started; there has been no direct evidence as to whether they can or cannot read, but in view of the substantial multi-racial composition of the workforce, we think it a realistic possibility. If they could and can cope, surely new employees could cope."

North Sea oil tax structure criticized

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The entire structure of the North Sea oil taxation system, which is forecast to net more than £5 billion for the Exchequer in the present financial year, was criticized by the Comptroller and Auditor General yesterday.

The criticism, delivered in a special report to Parliament, could well embarrass the Chancellor to the Exchequer, who has promised to make a definitive announcement on permanent new fiscal arrangements in his Budget statement on March 5.

Mr Gordon Downey, the Government's independent auditor, said that it was inevitable that the oil taxation system would be complex.

But his report suggested that the uncertainties of the system could themselves be damaging to the oilfield economy.

He also pointed out that the effectiveness of the system had been thrown into doubt by the fact that the advanced computerized model run by the Inland Revenue had been unable to give accurate assessments of oilfield profitability.

Mr Downey says in his report that the Government and the oil companies need to be certain of the results of changes in taxation if the Government is "to be sure of achieving its objectives".

But he adds: "Under the present multi-layered structure, with each element assessed on a significantly different basis, an adjustment in one element is likely to interact in a complex way with one or other of the other elements."

"This tends to make the results of taxation adjustments difficult to assess."

The implicit suggestion of that remark, couched in the language of the Exchequer and Audit Department, is that the uncertainties of the present system could damage long-term prospects in the North Sea.

Mr Downey points out that the Chancellor has promised the oil companies that he will consider representations on oil levy reform in time for his Budget this year.

The Comptroller says that that will give the Treasury "an opportunity to look again at the basic structure of the regime."

Nevertheless, Sir Geoffrey also told the Commons last year, when he introduced yet another tax element, supplementary petroleum duty, that "exhaustive consideration" had failed to produce any satisfactory reform.

The oil industry's main representative bodies submitted proposals for reform last October.

But if the Chancellor decides against reform, yesterday's report from Mr Downey will stand in permanent condemnation of the existing structure.

For the Comptroller's overall comments are underlined by additional remarks in the "adequacy of the present taxation structure".

He says in this detailed section of his report: "Because of the wide variations in the circumstances of different fields, it is difficult to assess the effects of changes in the tax arrangements on the profitability of North Sea oil operations, and hence the likely impact on the level of further investment there."

That reflected such items as the effect of tax changes, rates of production, inflation and exchange rates.

But Mr Downey reports: "Their best estimate of the post-tax internal rates of return on fields currently under production or development ranged from about 5 to 30 per cent in real terms."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Line on a map kills 70 jobs

An outdated boundary line is preventing Mr Denis Whitley, a chartered chemical engineer who has invented a device to monitor stock levels of any kind of liquid, from receiving a loan to expand his factory, and now he is thinking of moving abroad (Ronald Kershaw writes from Harrogate).

The development of Fuel Pumps Ltd, of Harrogate, would create more than 70 jobs and North Yorkshire County Council was ready to provide the finance until an official checked the Local Authority Land Act, 1963. That forbids the council from making loans in areas outside the former North Riding of Yorkshire, and Harrogate was in the old West Riding.

Mr Whitley said last night: "I am having so many problems in the United Kingdom my thoughts are coming round to the Continent. People on the Continent seem to have no trouble with EEC grants to which the British taxpayer contributes."

Pay cut agreed to save jobs

The 2,000 workers at the eight factories of the Christie Tyler group in South Wales have agreed to a wages cut and to go without a pay rise this year, after hearing that the company's headquarter in Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, was to close.

Three years ago the firm said some shop floor workers were earning more than £10,000 a year. In the first half of last year company losses topped £445,000.

Man dies in fire on 25th floor

A man died yesterday in a fire on the top floor of a 25-storey tower block in Wyndford Road, in the Maryhill district of Glasgow. An elderly woman and a student were taken to hospital suffering from the effects of smoke.

Residents were moved from the four uppermost floors of the building. Firemen took more than an hour to control the blaze.

Driving ban for soccer player

Alan Sunderland, the Arsenal soccer player, was fined £100 and banned from driving for a year by Tottenham magistrates yesterday after admitting driving with excess alcohol.

Sunderland, aged 28, of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, had been involved in an accident at midnight on July 10 in Enfield, London, in which a man aged 43 and a woman aged 46 were killed.

The prosecution, which offered no evidence on careless driving charges, said it did not attribute blame "in any way" for the accident.

Wenlock Edge cash appeal

The National Trust yesterday launched an appeal for £100,000, by one of Shropshire's best-known beauty areas. The Shropshire Hills appeal will be used to acquire part of the Wenlock Edge escarpment, ensuring improved public access.

The trust plans to buy nearly 200 acres, including part of the old Much Wenlock to Craven Arms railway.

Armed bank raid

Two masked raiders, one armed with a shotgun, escaped with £2,500 in bank notes from a branch of the National Westminster Bank in Mapperley, Nottinghamshire, yesterday. The police believe the same men were responsible for a similar robbery at a Nottingham branch of the Trustee Savings Bank three weeks ago.

CHAUFFEUR JAILED FOR KIDNAP

A chauffeur who organized the kidnapping of his Saudi Arabian employer's daughter, aged 11, was jailed for 15 years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Susantha Karunaratne, aged 38, was described as a lying hypocrite by Judge Abdala, who said: "There must be a deterrent sentence in this case. I look on this matter as disgraceful."

Karunaratne, of Austin Road, Luton, was convicted of kidnapping Reem Al Harithi near her home in Knightsbridge, London, on June 23 last year, holding her prisoner in a flat at Kingsbury, North London, and demanding £150,000 from her father, Major General Mashhour Al Harithi, aged 55, a former Saudi Arabian military attaché in London.

Mr Allan Green, for the prosecution, said that the girl was abducted while Karunaratne was supposed to be taking her to school.

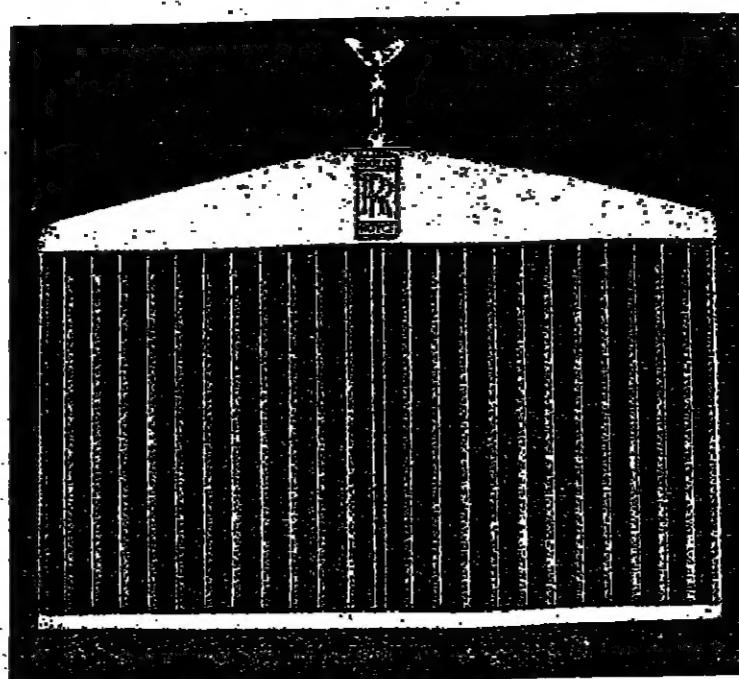
Productivity doubled at BL Cars biggest plant

Productivity at Longbridge—home of the Metro and the Mini—has more than doubled in just twelve months.

In 1980, 132,000 cars were made by a workforce of 17,000.

Last year 234,000 cars

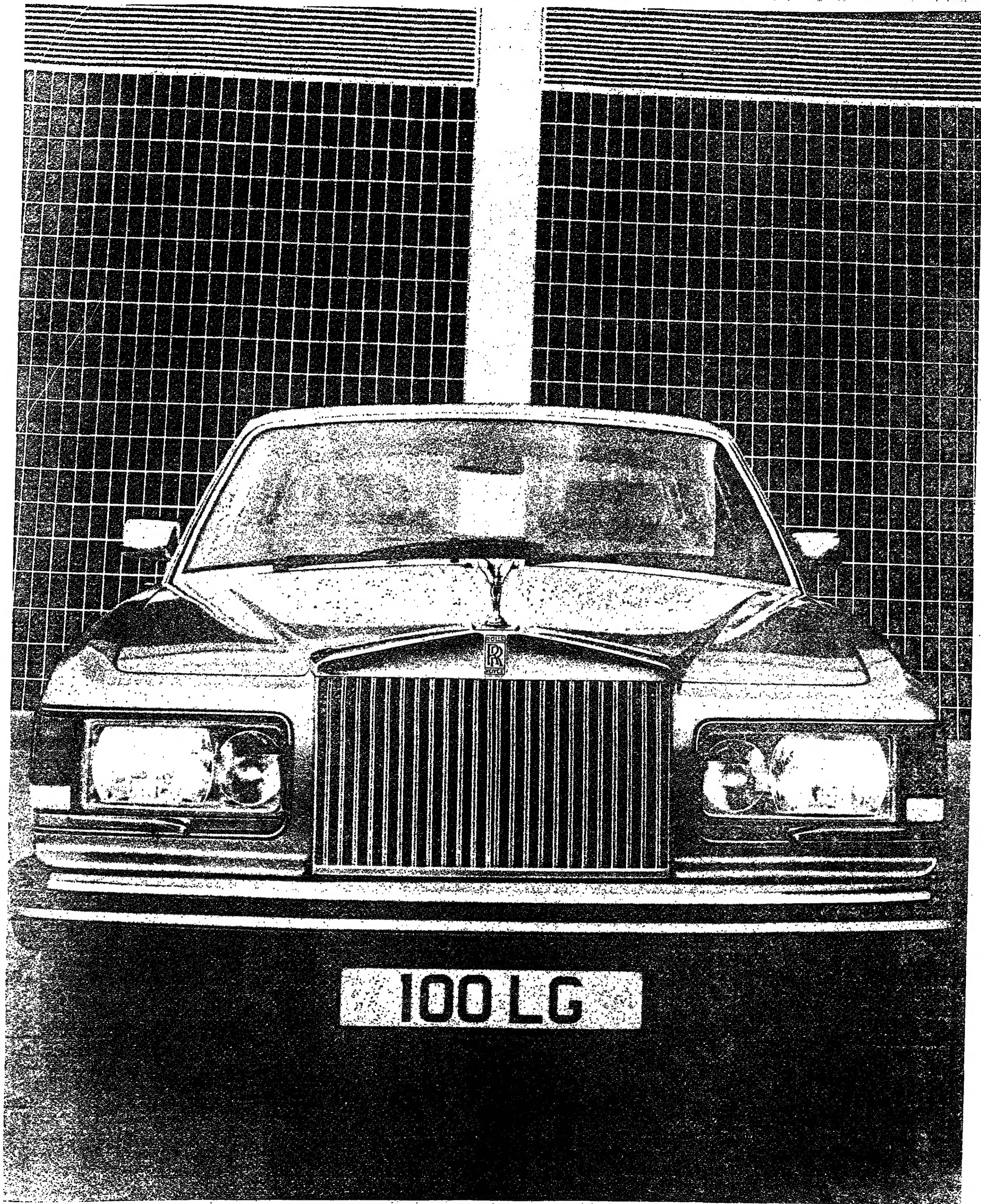
BL Fighting back



Vladimir Ilyich Lenin
 Guglielmo Marconi
 George Bernard Shaw
 Elvis Presley
 David Lloyd George
 Sir Edwin Lutyens
 Sir Banister Fletcher
 Prince Chula Birabongse of Siam
 Gracie Fields
 Sir Billy Butlin
 H.M. The King of Serbia
 Henry Curtis-Bennet K.C.
 Douglas Fairbanks
 Pierre Michelin
 Howard Hawks
 Sir Frederick Henry Royce
 Ernest Hemingway
 Claude Johnson
 Hugh Trevor-Roper
 Vladimir Horowitz
 Mae West
 Baron Edouard de Rothschild
 The Nizam of Hyderabad
 W.R. Vanderbilt
 The Maharajah of Mysore
 Sir Jesse Boot
 J. Arthur Rank
 Lord Kitchener
 Tommy Sopwith
 H.M. King Carol of Rumania
 Lord Beaverbrook
 Sir Malcolm Campbell
 J. Pierpont Morgan
 Roberto Rossellini
 The Marquis of Crewe
 H.I.M. Haile Selassie
 The Maharajah of Cooh Behar
 The People's Republic of China
 (Unknown purchaser)
 General Franco
 Gary Cooper
 The Third Duke of Westminster
 Nubar Gulbenkian
 Alfred Bird
 Sir John French
 Lord Fisher
 The Marquis of Exeter
 Lord Birkenhead
 Lord Baden-Powell
 Edgar Wallace
 W.D. Wills
 R. D'Oyly Carte
 The Maharajah of Patiala
 Jack Warner
 Jack L. Warner
 S. Gestetner
 Pola Negri
 Sax Rohmer
 Sir Terence Rattigan
 R.C. Sherriff
 Cary Grant
 W. Somerset Maugham
 Peter Sellers
 Marshal Tito
 Aristotle Onassis
 Greta Garbo
 Lawrence of Arabia
 President Woodrow Wilson
 Marie, Dowager Empress of Russia

For seventy-eight years Rolls-Royce motor cars have been owned by the men and women who shape history.

This list represents just a few of the great names who have owned Rolls-Royce motor cars. Subsequent advertisements will include many more. If you know of someone who you feel deserves to be included in such a list, do not hesitate to contact Rolls-Royce Motors.



They still are.

This is the Silver Spirit. Rolls-Royce Motors believe it is the best motor car they have yet produced.

The suspension system means that it handles and corners better than any previous model.

The famous Rolls-Royce engine is as quiet and durable as it has ever been.

And Rolls-Royce engineers feel that the body is the most pleasing

combination of aerodynamics and styling they have yet achieved.

For seventy-eight years, Rolls-Royce Motors have been striving to improve on the best car in the world. They still are.



Fortnight for survey of De Lorean affairs

Butler: Firms' assurance about credit

COMMONS

The make-up of the board of the De Lorean Car Company is to be subjected to an independent survey on behalf of the Government, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, said during questions in the Commons. He announced that Coopers and Lybrand had been appointed to carry out this survey and report within 14 days.

Mr Butler said: There is a point beyond which one cannot go. We have an acute responsibility to the taxpayers in the way money has been used and have to take that into account as well as the situation of the workers and unemployment in the province.

Mr Robert Crier (Keighly, Lab) asked if the Minister was satisfied with the current voting rights of the Government directors in the car company.

Mr Butler: Under the arrangements agreed by the previous administration, the Northern Ireland Development Agency is represented by two nominated directors on the board of the company. In view of its minority shareholding, the agency does not have voting control.

Nothing in the Government's present words or actions should be taken as committing any further Government assistance or comfort to the De Lorean companies. The directors of the company have said that they are continuing to trade, they will not incur any credit which they cannot meet.

Mr Crier: Would he agree that the Government's public contribution to this company there ought to be a majority shareholding on behalf of the taxpayers? Would he also accept that the two directors who have watched £2m go to Lotus Cars via a Panamanian company and proposed houses of £400,000 to the director last month, should be replaced?

It is a disgrace that after contributing £33m the taxpayer should be asked to give support to a company which is a potential disaster for the workers?

Mr Butler: It was the Labour

Government of which he was a member which came to the arrangement with Mr De Lorean and if that Government with its philosophy in regard to nationalisation was not prepared to have a majority shareholding, he will not be surprised if I do not agree with his proposal.

Mr James Kilfedder (North Down, UUP) is a member and a scandalous that the De Lorean car company, which is in such financial jeopardy should have been given a £15,000 travel by Comrade to New York and back for one meeting.

Seven directors flew from Belfast to New York for this one meeting at a cost of £15,000. Will that matter also be investigated?

Mr Butler: He must appreciate the importance of the board meeting which was called on very short notice to consider some important points which had been put to Mr De Lorean and other directors by the secretary of state (Mr Prior).

Mr Gerard Fitt (Belfast, West, Soc): This company was a ray of hope last month, should be replaced?

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Still some way to go — Prior

ULSTER

There was a momentum in Northern Ireland towards some form of devolved administration, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said. The momentum for a devolved administration would be best maintained, he went on, if there was a growing recognition by the people in Northern Ireland that they should have a devolved government in which there was adequate provision for the interests of the minority. MPs should not think that it would be an easy business; he did not have a panacea for the problems of the province.

Mr Prior said that he was anxious to see some responsibility for their own affairs devolved to the people of Northern Ireland through their elected representatives.

I am (he continued) discussing with local political parties means of transferring power that would be broadly acceptable to the whole community. The proposals I have held have been valuable and they are continuing. No final decisions have yet been taken but I recognise the need for action.

Mr Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight, Lib) could give an idea of the timescale and when he expects to be able to present some proposals to the House?

Mr Prior: I wish I could give an idea of the timescale. It will depend on the progress of the proposals. It would be better if we took a little bit longer and were careful in the way we put the proposals forward. I would like to see a way to go forward in any way confident that I would be able to put proposals to the House.

Mr James McCusker (Armagh, Off, UUP): Inadvertently or otherwise, he is creating a momentum towards a devolved assembly in Northern Ireland which, if it does not lead to a satisfactory conclusion, will lead to further alienation and disenchantment in the community.

Mr Prior: I recognize there is in Northern Ireland a momentum towards some form of devolved administration. This is a momentum which has not been created entirely by myself, but by the wishes and desires of the people of Northern Ireland, who believe that the time is right for this to happen.

It is as much a matter for the Unionists making their views as much as anything I could say to them (he said to the members of the House).

Mr Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion, C): It would be better as a first step before seeking to

impose devolved government on Northern Ireland, to allow them to have the same local government as we have here.

Mr Prior: I do not think that the same conditions for local government exist in Northern Ireland as here. What is more, the people of Northern Ireland are asking for the moment for a form of devolved administration.

These are matters for discussion, but if we are to return to the people of Northern Ireland politicians who will not go in for the extremes of the last few years, then it is essential that there should be political responsibility as soon as we can arrange it.

I hope (he added) that MPs are not going to think this is an easy matter. I have no panacea for the problems of Northern Ireland. I am afraid that would be asking too much.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Debate on the new nuclear power programme.

Tuesday: Coal Industry Bill, second reading. New Towns Bill, remaining stages.

Wednesday: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, second reading. Private Bill: Consideration of Lloyd's Bill.

Thursday: Debate on an Opposition motion on the need to improve the lot of the elderly.

Friday: Private Members' Bill: Planning Inquiries (Attendance of Public) Bill and Death Grant Increase Bill, second readings.

The main business in the House of Lords next week will be:

Monday: Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, committee, third day.

Tuesday: Social Security (Contributions) Bill, report and third reading. Civil Government (Ireland) Bill, committee, fourth day.

Wednesday: Debate on economic and social aspects of over-reliance on the oil market.

Thursday: Debate of the Science Bill on the Nixon disaster.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private Members' Bills. Food and Drugs Bill, second reading. Death Grant Increase Bill, second reading.

Lords (2.30): Private Members' Bills. Food and Drugs Bill, second reading. Death Grant Increase Bill, second reading.

Cabinet decide to keep to broad strategy

PM's QUESTION

At this morning's Cabinet meeting it was thought right to keep to the broad strategy which the Government had followed hitherto, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, insisted, MPs at question time.

The issue has been raised by Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition who asked: Can she say whether the Cabinet are persuaded to restore the £13 a week cut being imposed on so many unemployed families? (Labour interruptions)

Mrs Thatcher: We had an excellent Cabinet, a very useful discussion. We thought it would be right to continue on the broad strategy which the Government has followed hitherto, and in particular that it was essential to keep to the objective of reducing inflation, which is one of the best ways to achieve recovery and the prospect of new jobs.

On the earnings related supplement which ceased on January 2 for new claimants, only one in five of the unemployed were entitled to it. Her fellow Conservative MP asked: Is the Government prepared to consider a new supplement for the unemployed? (Labour interruptions)

Mrs Thatcher: Unemployed benefit is now roughly double what it was in 1951 and that is the fact and the supplementary benefit is also double. (Labour interruptions)

Mrs Thatcher: The whole of the St George's Hospital site was allowed to the hospital at a peppercorn rent for decades and now the Government is expected to honour the agreement to return it.

Mr Skinner, perhaps, would not agree with honouring a legal agreement.

The pay bill for nurses was 76 per cent above what it had been when the Conservatives came to power. It seems reasonable to have had to the benefits of the industrial injuries scheme.

Compensation for sacked workers

The Employment Bill, presented by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, which among other proposals would provide compensation out of public funds for those dismissed for failure to conform to the requirements of a union membership agreement, was discussed.

Earlier, during Prime Minister's questions, Mrs Thatcher referred to the "disgraceful legislation" passed by Labour Government when last in office, under which people could be sacked from a job they had been in for years merely because they refused to join a union.

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Budget will continue process of steady recovery

As fast as anywhere else giving Britain the highest rate of unemployment for any major industrial country.

Another difference between the world's economic situation and the second, was that at the time of the first Britain did not have its own supply of oil yet by 1973-1980 Britain had become self sufficient and even an exporter of oil. This should have led to a reinforcement of its position, not a diminution.

This Government (he said) with its unambiguous bungling and doctrinal absurdity has turned out to be a disaster for the people of the United Kingdom.

It is there any other oil producer who has not been so badly treated? It is there any other oil producer who has not been so badly treated? It is there any other oil producer who has not been so badly treated?

The Government said the plight of the nation was due to massive unemployment, but it was not the unemployment which was the cause of the problem. It was the massive increase in the cost of living which was the cause of the problem.

Much rubbish was talked about the terrible burden of the national debt. The national debt was not the cause of the problem. It was the massive increase in the cost of living which was the cause of the problem.

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NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS

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14% per annum.

As fast as anywhere else giving Britain the highest rate of unemployment for any major industrial country.

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Government's analysis of Employment Bill

This is the Department of Employment's clause-by-clause analysis of the 1982 Employment Bill.

Compensation for closed shop victims:

Clause 1 and Schedule 1 enable the Secretary of State to make regulations to pay compensation to those who were dismissed for non-membership of a trade union in a closed shop under the last Government's Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974 and 1976, and whose dismissal was not unfair. The new provisions of the Employment Act 1980 (except those which relate to ballots) have been in force since 1980. This means people who were dismissed for non-membership in closed shops between the coming into force of the 1974 Act and the coming into force of the 1980 Employment Act and who were either existing employees of their employer at the time the closed shop agreement took effect in their firm or who objected to union membership on grounds of conscience or other deeply-held personal conviction. Schedule 1 also sets out the maximum sums of compensation which the Secretary of State may pay (ie broadly what the dismissed person would have been awarded if he had brought a successful complaint of unfair dismissal) and enables him to appoint a person to advise him on applications for compensation.

Dismissal for non-membership of a trade union:

Clause 2 amends Sections 58 and 59A of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act, 1978, to enlarge the circumstances in which dismissal for non-membership of a trade union in a closed shop is to be regarded as unfair. The principal new circumstances are:

- Where a closed shop agreement which took effect before August 15, 1980, has not in the five years preceding the dismissal been supported in a secret ballot by 80 per cent of the employees covered by it or 85 per cent of those voting; and
- Where at the time of dismissal the employee concerned has obtained or is seeking from an industrial tribunal a declaration under Section 4 of the Employment Act, 1980 that he has been unreasonably excluded or expelled from his trade union.

For the sake of clarity the amended versions of Sections 58 and 59A are set out in full in clause 2.

Clause 3 puts a minimum of £2,000 (subject to reduction on account of the dismissed employee's conduct before dismissal etc) on any basic award of compensation which may be made to a person unfairly dismissed for non-membership of a trade union or for trade union membership and activities. (At present the basic award in such cases is 10 weeks' pay and 1½ weeks' pay for each complete year of employment (depending on age) subject to a maximum of £3,500 but not to a minimum.)

Clause 4 creates a new award of compensation, called the "special award", for those who are dismissed unfairly because of non-membership of a trade union or because of trade union membership or activities. The special award will be made in such cases where the dismissed employee asks the tribunal to make an order for reinstatement or reengagement, whether or not the tribunal decides to make such an order. Where an order is made, the amount of special award will be 104 weeks' pay subject to a minimum of £10,000 and a maximum of £20,000. Where an order is not made, the employee is not reinstated or reengaged, the amount of the special award will be 156 weeks' pay subject to a minimum of £15,000. In both cases the special award is additional to any basic or compensatory award. The special award as well as the basic and compensatory awards may be reduced on account of the employee's conduct before dismissal.

Clause 5 enables an employee who is claiming to have been dismissed unfairly for not being a member of a trade union to "join" as a party to the unfair dismissal proceedings any trade union or other person who he claims put pressure on the employer to dismiss him by calling or threatening industrial action. Currently only employers can "join" unions in this way. Where a trade union or other person is "joined" in the proceedings, the tribunal finds that it did exert pressure on the employer to dismiss unfairly, the tribunal can award compensation for the unfair dismissal wholly or partly against the union or other person rather than against the employer.

Clause 6 enables those who claim they have been unfairly dismissed for non-membership of a trade union to apply for "interim relief" (ie for an order continuing their employment until their claim of unfair dismissal is heard). Under Section 77 of the 1978 Act interim relief is already available to those dismissed for trade union membership or activities.

Selective dismissal in a strike:

Clause 7 applies to an employee who is dismissed while taking part in a strike. An employee will not be able to claim unfair dismissal provided that his employer has (i) given notice to every employee on strike that any employee who does not return to work within a specified period of at least four working days may be dismissed; (ii) not dismissed the employee in question before the expiry of the specified period; and (iii) dismissed all employees taking part in the strike at that time. Clause 7 does not affect the employer's existing right to dismiss strikers without notice.

Action short of dismissal:

Clause 8 extends an employee's right not to have action short of dismissal taken against him by his employer, in order to compel him to be a trade union member, to the additional circumstances in which his dismissal for non-membership of a trade union would be unfair under the new provisions of clause 2.

of dismissal for non-membership of a trade union.

Union labour only requirements: Clause 10 makes void any term in a commercial contract requiring the contractor to use only union labour (or only non-union members) in fulfilling the contract. It also makes it unlawful to terminate a contract to exclude from a tender list of to refuse to invite tenders from or make a contract with a person on the basis that anyone employed or likely to be employed to fulfil the contract is, or is not a union member.

Clause 11 removes the legal immunities from trade unions and other persons who put pressure on an employer to act contrary to clause 10. It also removes the immunities from those who organise action by employees which interferes with the supply of goods or services on the grounds that work done in connection with the supply of those goods or services is or had been performed by non-union or union members.

Trade union immunities:

Clause 12 repeals Section 14 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974. This removes the legal immunities for trade unions (and employers' associations) into line with those for individuals, with the effect that trade unions may be held liable for unlawful acts committed outside a trade dispute and for action which is already made unlawful by the Employment Act, 1980. The clause describes the circumstances in which a trade union is to be regarded as liable for the unlawful acts of its officials.

Clause 13 puts upper limits on damages which may be awarded against a trade union in civil proceedings (except in some cases of personal injury or connected with the ownership of property). The limits are defined by reference to the number of members in a trade union: fewer than 5,000 members, £10,000; 5,000 to 24,999 members, £50,000; 25,000 to 100,000 members, £125,000; more than 100,000 members, £250,000.

Clause 14 specifies certain property from which damages costs or expenses may not be recovered in any proceedings against a trade union or employers' association.

Trade dispute:

Clause 15 amends the definition of a "trade dispute" in Section 29 of the 1974 Act. It specifies that a trade dispute must be between workers and their employer, and removes from Section 29 disputes between workers and workers. It requires that a trade dispute must relate wholly or mainly to the subjects in Section 29(1) of the 1974 Act, rather than merely be connected with them. The clause also excludes disputes relating to matters outside the United Kingdom unless the person taking action in Great Britain is likely to be affected by the outcome of the dispute.

Other provisions:

Clause 16 empowers the Secretary of State by order to change from weeks to calendar months or years the periods of continuous employment which determine entitlement to certain statutory employment protection rights and payments. These include redundancy, maternity and guarantee payments and the right to statutory notice and to claim of unfair dismissal.

Clause 17 contains provisions as to interpretation and with Schedules 2 and 3 makes various amendments which are consequential to the main Bill and a number of other minor amendments to the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act, 1978. The main minor amendments are briefly explained in the attached.

Minor amendments:

Paragraph 1 enables industrial tribunals to hear complaints that written statements of main terms and conditions of employment are inaccurate.

Paragraph 2 has the effect that, in cases where an employee has resigned because his employer has broken (or shown his intention to break) a fundamental term of the employment contract, the period of service used for calculating whether he qualifies to bring an unfair dismissal claim is extended by a period equal to his statutory minimum notice entitlement. This brings the position into line with that of workers dismissed by their employers without notice.

The amendments to "continuity of employment in certain schools" in paragraph 3 mean that a teacher moving within the same local education authority (LEA) area from one type of LEA school to another will no longer be counted as breaking the continuity of his employment for the purpose of calculating statutory rights. They will also enable a volunteer for redundancy from one type of school in a LEA to become eligible for a redundancy payment when his job is filled by someone from a different type of school within the same LEA whose job has, in fact, come to an end.

Paragraph 4 provides that the maximum eight weeks arrears of pay which may be paid from the redundancy fund to an employee whose employer has become insolvent must, where possible, consist of complete pay weeks. Paragraph 5 enables the Secretary of State to pay without delay debts owed to employees of insolvent employers and payable under the insolvency provisions in circumstances where a delay of six months would at present be needed.

Paragraph 6 extends all the employment protection rights which are enjoyed by employees to employed spouses.

Paragraph 7 enables the Secretary of State to provide by order for interest to accrue on industrial tribunal awards of compensation from the date of the award. This will bring the position of these tribunals into line with the other courts in this respect.

Finally, it has been accepted practice in the Employment Appeal Tribunal for interlocutory matters to be determined by the Registrar or by a judge sitting alone. Paragraph 8 makes it clear beyond doubt in the legislation that the Employment Tribunal has the power to determine interlocutory matters in this way.

Preacher, wit and master of order

By George Clark

In the days of optimism for regionalists, when the Labour Party was proposing legislation for devolution of power to Scotland and Wales, *The Times* carried a speculative story to the effect that Mr George Thomas, the boy from Tonypandy, a former Methodist lay preacher and schoolmaster, would almost certainly become the first Prime Minister of Wales.

That wistfully amused the Labour MP for Cardiff, West, who did in fact become Secretary of State for Wales from 1968 to 1970, but it really was a typical example of the modesty of a man who celebrates his 73rd birthday today, having been Speaker of the House of Commons since 1976.

There is speculation that he is to retire, or to announce that he will not stand at the next general election.

Mr Clement Freud, Liberal MP for the Isle of Wight, sought leave on Tuesday to introduce a Bill creating a special constituency, without electors, to which the Speaker would be assigned on his election to the Chair. He referred to the newspaper speculation about Mr Thomas not standing again.

Mr Thomas intervened. "Order!" he said. "It is grossly discourteous for the honourable gentleman to refer to my personal position."

He maintains that as Speaker he is in a better position than most MPs in bringing local grievances to the Government's attention. Mr Thomas likes to recall the battles he fought for leasehold reform which remedied a long-standing grievance of thousands of people in South Wales. As a consequence of industrial development, few people owned the leasehold of their homes. When 99-year leases expired, many people either lost their

homes to the ground landlord or had to pay heavily for the freehold.

By fighting that campaign George Thomas built up a popularity which has lasted 30 years. Born in Port Talbot in 1909, he was brought up in the Rhondda. His mother was a Methodist and he was active in politics, and when he entered the fray, capturing the seat of Cardiff Central in 1945, she was a powerful guiding force. He has never married.

He now has the well-earned

reputation of being the most humorous of speakers since the war, a man who can bring the most heated bursts of temper to a placid end. He it was who told a Labour MP that his supplementary question was "even longer than a Methodist sermon," and who commented, in biting tones, when a Scottish MP complained that she could not understand the "scouse of a Liverpool back-bencher: "There are many accents in this House. Indeed, I wish I had one myself."

Mr Thomas still occasionally delivers a sermon in church. In the midst of a tremendous uproar in the House one day he restored order by simply recalling the religious ceremony which precedes every day's sitting. "Order, Order!" he shouted. "It is but an hour since we were praying for heavenly wisdom from on high. Alas, it seems that our prayers are not answered every day."



Mr George Thomas, who is 73 today, in the Speaker's State Room at the Commons.

Spark may have caused pit blaze

From John Witherow Glasgow

An inquiry into the pit fire at Cardowan Colliery, near Glasgow, continued yesterday as 27 injured miners were still in hospital with burns.

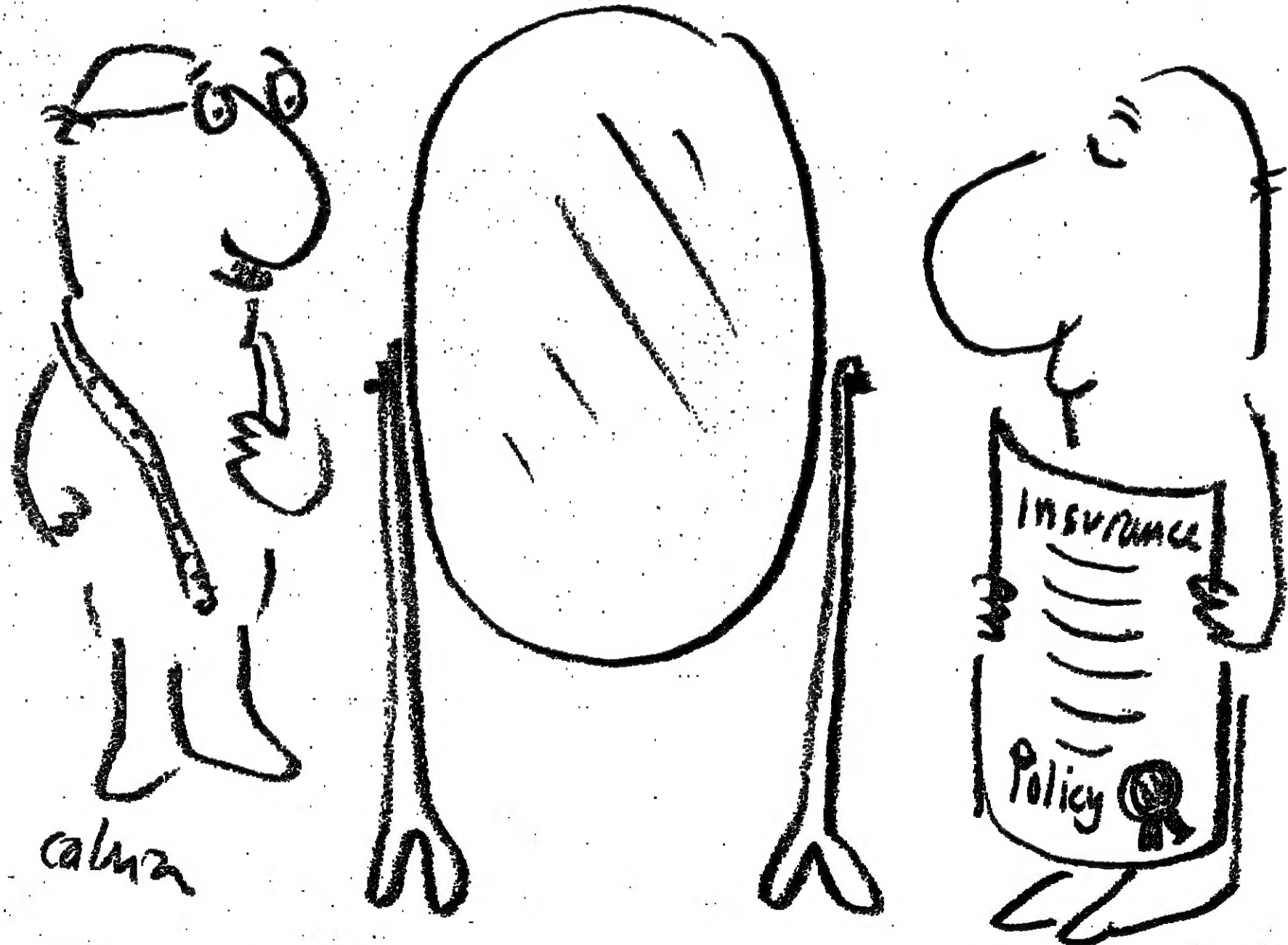
The National Coal Board in Scotland said the result of an investigation, made jointly with engineers from the Mines Inspectorate and representatives of the National Union of Mineworkers, would be made known as soon as possible. The Government has said the findings will be made public.

One theory of the cause of the accident, which sent a shaft 2,000 feet underground, injuring 40 men on Wednesday morning, is that a coal cutter sparked on a stone, igniting high levels of methane gas.

Mr William Grant, aged 30, a miner at the colliery, said: "It was fortunate that the coal dust did not go on fire. If that had happened then God knows what the result would have been."

Seven men were badly burnt and one, Mr John O'Rourke, aged 31, who had a fractured skull was said to be in a critical condition. The condition of the remainder were said to be stable last night.

There seems to be no suggestion that the colliery was dangerous although it was known occasionally to contain high levels of methane.



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Even abandoned farms, such as this one outside Verona, were searched in the nationwide hunt for General Dozier, which ended 50 miles away in this flat in Padua

How the Italian commandos 'cracked' Red Brigade

by Our Foreign Staff

It was at 6 pm on December 17 that four men disappeared from the door of the sixth floor apartment in Verona of Brigadier General James Dozier.

Dozier, aged 50, who fought in Vietnam with an armoured regiment, had been in Verona for just over a year as deputy chief of staff for logistics and administration for Allied land forces in southern Europe, and was the senior United States Army officer at the Nato headquarters in Verona. His command included an array of United States Army units, Italian Alpine troops units and a non-nuclear United States air force missile base.

Mrs Judith Dozier opened the door. She was overpowered and bound. Dozier fought the intruders, members of the Red Brigades, who hit him on the head with a pistol.

He was forced into a trunk and loaded into a car, leaving Mrs Dozier tied but unhurt in the apartment. She freed herself and called the police before a caller to the Italian news agency said: "This is the Red Brigades. We have kidnapped Brigadier General James Dozier in Verona, Via Lungo Adige 5, a communiqué will follow."

Dozier was the first foreigner to be taken by the Brigades, which kidnapped and murdered Aldo Moro, the former Prime Minister, in 1978. They issued five communiqués as police throughout Italy searched flats and farmhouses, and stopped cars.

The communiqués said Dozier was being held in a "People's prison". They threatened him with "proletarian justice" for his role in Nato and alleged massacres during his service in Vietnam. One communiqué contained what purported to be a transcript of the General's interrogation and the kidnappers also released two photographs of him posed beneath their banner with the five-pointed Red Brigade star.

There were rumours that the general was about to be released for a ransom said to be as high as \$9.8m (£4.5m) the toughest-willed fifth communiqué appeared to rule out an early release, saying that the working class had

"nothing to negotiate" with the bourgeoisie.

But recently the impression arose that the Red Brigades was not succeeding in stage-managing the operation as it wished. The five communiqués in the 42 days, was a less frequent rate than in previous kidnappings of prominent Italians, and they were full of ideological ramblings with no clear idea of what the Brigatisti wanted. Something was not working.

Five thousand Italian security men were in the hunt with "technical assistance" from Americans. The Italians rounded up a Red Brigades terrorist "column", which operated in the area of Verona. "It was a textbook operation. They cracked the column, the people talked and they followed in every single lead. The did it right and it worked", said a US official yesterday who asked not to be identified.

On January 4, plainclothesmen arrested two alleged terrorists as they drove through central Rome, armed to the teeth and apparently planning a kidnapping. Five days later police charged into another apartment hideout in Rome, arresting one of their top terrorists, Giovanni Serrano, and seizing an arsenal of weapons. Last weekend five more alleged terrorists were arrested in the countryside north of Rome by police hunting the killers of two young policemen in a bank robbery at the central town of Siena.

A special commando unit of the Italian security police located the Padua Apartment on Wednesday night but held off the raid until daytime yesterday, fearing that a night-time attack might endanger the general's life. US officials in Washington were notified and agreed.

Ten handpicked police commandos from a crack anti-terrorist unit formed three years ago in response to the Moro murder were assigned to the raid.

The special agents for security operations are the elite unit of the interior ministry's anti-terrorist squad. Normally wearing camouflaged overalls and carrying gas-masks, they are all marksmen trained to use a range of weapons including



Under arrest, six alleged Red Brigades terrorists. From left, Antonio Savasta, one of the five held yesterday, Ennio Di Rocco and Stefano Petrella, detained in Rome, Pietro Muzzi, Gino Aldi and Gianfranco Fornoni all arrested this year. Savasta, aged 27, has been wanted in connection with the Moro case

basopkas in risky operations against terrorists. The special agents report to the central operative nucleus for security, known by its Italian acronym Nocs. Their exact numbers and the location of their headquarters are a secret.

The Interior Ministry founded Nocs and recruited the special agents as part of the stepped-up campaign against political violence following the Moro abduction in March 1978. The Red Brigades killed Moro after the government rejected the terrorists' demand to free a number of their jailed comrades.

Heavily-armed police sealed off the area around the Padua apartment at dawn and set a bulldozer to work nearby to cover the noise of the raid. The commandos broke down the door and grabbed the first terrorist in the hall. A second was overpowered as he aimed to shoot the hostage, huddled in an anorak. The others were spread through the four-room apartment.

All those arrested yesterday, police said, were male and Italian and two were said to be well-known to security forces. There was no hint in the operation of any of the international links which press and politicians in Italy had attributed to the kidnapping.

But in Washington at the State Department, Mr Frank Perez, acting director of the Office for Combating Terrorism, suggested "a foreign connexion". He refused to name any countries or groups. "We have no direct

Gee, it's good to see you, says Dozier

Major General McFadden, commander of the Southern European task force headquarters in Vicenza, Northern Italy, said General Dozier was in excellent health. He said there was no sign that General Dozier had been tortured.

He was quite good-looking with his beard and moustache, but he looks like Jim Dozier now George McFadden told a news conference.

Last night the general was undergoing a physical examination at the base hospital.

His wife Mrs Judith Dozier travelled to the base from West Germany, accompanied by her daughter, Cheryl, and son Scott.

Major General McFadden said the Dozier's would probably stay in the army base for the foreseeable future.

"My goal on the arrival of Mrs Dozier is to get her immediately with her hus-

band, and I intend to say goodbye and close the door. I'm not going to let anybody except the family get into the quarter", he said.

In his opening statement, the major general said: "All Italians can be quite proud of this victory". He praised the high professionalism of all Italian security men involved in the search.

Extraordinary security measures were in effect at the base. United States soldiers and Italian policemen with automatic weapons guarded all entrances. They used mirrors to search under cars for hidden bombs.

Americans at the Nato base responded with tears and embraces when they heard the news over the public announcement system. There was an immediate emotional response, mostly crying and hugging, tears of joy, U.S. Air Force Captain Herbert Smith said. Asked how General Dozier reacted when they met, Major General McFadden said: "Just about his usual response when we would meet, a very friendly smile, a handshake, and he said 'Gee I'm glad to see you'."

President Reagan said that "a lot of prayers have been answered" when he told of the successful rescue.

The President was told the news by Mr William Clark, his national security adviser, shortly before seven o'clock in the morning in Washington. The spokesman quoted the President as saying: "A lot of prayers have been

answered. It's difficult to express gratitude to all those who have assisted in this release". A few hours later General Dozier talked to him for about two minutes.

The release of the general was hailed by Italian politicians including Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini, by Pope John Paul and by Nato officials. A Vatican spokesman expressed "relief and satisfaction". The Rev Romeo Panciroli, said there is "great relief and satisfaction in Vatican circles over the liberation of General Dozier, and with the meaning it has for our society and for the senior American officer's family who has worried and suffered for so many days."

The Prime Minister said General Dozier's release was "Great news". He was echoed by Enrico Berlinguer, leader of the Communist Party who said in a telegram to Virginio Rognoni, Minister for the Interior, "I am happy to send my personal warm congratulations and those of the party for the liberation of General Dozier and the simultaneous arrests."

In London, Mrs Margaret Thatcher congratulated the Italian Government on an "excellent operation". She added: "I would like not only to congratulate the Italian Government but to say how thrilled we all are that he has been found alive. It is a matter of great relief that he has been found alive and restored to his family."

Mitterrand combats split on Siberian gas deal

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Jan 28

The contract for the rebuying of 135 million cubic metres of Siberian gas to France continues to divide not only the Government majority also the opposition.

Once again, to restore some harmony to the discordant chorus of his own supporters, President Mitterrand had to step in yesterday and reply to those, such as M Edmond Maire Secretary General of the CPDT labour organization, who had accused the government of sacrificing the Poles to a Socialist conception of real-politik.

M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, this evening attempted in the national assembly on the censure debate, to substitute more telling arguments for his lame explanation earlier this week that "it would serve no purpose to add to the Polish tragedy the additional tragedy, for Frenchmen, of not being supplied with gas."

M Mauroy said that "to refuse to sign the gas contract would have meant giving up the objectives of the Government's energy plan. It would have meant embarking on the logic of an economic blockade of a state of war."

The Government has received qualified support from an unexpected quarter. M Raymond Barre, under whose prime ministership the negotiation on Siberian gas began, declared yesterday that he approved the signature of the contract, although he had some reservations about its timing. "I reflect the amalgam of politics and economics in which



M Barre: Surprise ally

Mediation in Poland

Secret negotiations may free Walesa into church hands

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 28

The secret talks between the Roman Catholic Church and the Polish Government on the release of Mr Lech Walesa, the detained Solidarity leader, have reached a crucial stage.

For the first time Mr Walesa was accompanied by both legal and church advisers in talks with Mr Josef Ciosek, the Minister for Trade Union Affairs, raising fresh speculation that the Solidarity chairman may soon be transferred into church hands.

The position of Mr Walesa and he whole subject of internment and church-state relations are expected to dominate the meeting next week between the Primate Archbishop Jozef Glemp, and the Pope. The Pope has been closely following the Polish crisis. The Pope has received and replied to at least one letter from Mr Walesa.

According to sources close to the negotiations, Mr Ciosek visited Mr Walesa last Friday in Koscian, outside Warsaw. Where he is under house arrest. There have been several earlier meetings, but none involving legal experts.

Apart from the two lawyers, Mr Walesa was accompanied by three church advisers including his parish priest from Gdansk, the archbishop's spokesman among other things Mr Walesa's legal status. The government has been reluctant to admit that he is formally interned but a letter from Mrs Danuta Walesa his wife, to the Gdansk regional prosecutor brought the issue into the open.

Her husband, she said, had not been charged nor had he been "temporarily detained" because he would have to be released in 48 hours. The government should immediately clarify his status, she said.

That is the first legal step towards his transfer from house arrest to church control. It is understood that there are still a number of problems, above all because the church does not want to be seen taking sides. Its role, church spokesmen repeatedly say is that of mediation.

Over the past few weeks there have been repeated rumours about the imminent release of Mr Walesa, but these have usually underestimated the complexity of such a move. The Government would certainly be happy to release Mr Walesa, providing that brought him closer to

agreeing to head a reconstituted depoliticized trade union.

The church, too, would welcome the opportunity to play a mediating role in trying to bridge the still quite considerable gulf between Mr Walesa, meanwhile, insisting that he will negotiate only with the full Solidarity praesidium most of whom are interned.

Archbishop Glemp recently visited Bielska internment centre where many bishops of the Solidarity praesidium are being held. But he is understood to have come away disappointed, convinced that the union leadership is now even tougher than it was before the military takeover six weeks ago.

The hope is now that the Vatican will be able to cut through some of these problems, though simply putting pressure on the Government is no longer sufficient.

The Primate also prepared a comprehensive report on internment conditions which will be summarized for the Pope. The social council advisory unit to the Primate reported to him last Saturday on conditions of detention. Many bishops have been visiting internment centres since last week's joint episcopal-government commission.

The church understanding of General Wojciech Jaruzelski's speech on Monday is that there is absolutely no hope for an early end to internment, however intense the pressure.

The immediate goal must thus be to ensure that conditions in the camps are as tolerable as possible, and indeed there seems to be some evidence that this is being achieved.

The church estimates the total number interned now roughly tallies with the government figure - about 5,100, according to church sources compared to just under 5,000 announced by General Jaruzelski.

Reports that the Primate's participation in the Vatican trip reflects a broad split in the episcopate have been denied by senior church officials. Originally Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, the Pope's successor as the Archbishop of Cracow, was to have headed the delegation.

There has thus been speculation that the Primate's decision to head the delegation was because he was worried that his more conciliatory approach might not be fully represented by some of the hardliners within the episcopate.

Gromyko's war taunt against US

Berlin, Jan 28—Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, has accused the United States of trampling on normal international relations in its attitude to Poland and the Soviet Union.

He was speaking at a dinner in East Berlin, where he is stopping for two days of talks with Herr Erich Honecker, the East German party leader. Mr Gromyko is on his way home from Geneva, where he saw Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State.

Mr Gromyko accused military circles in America of trying to accustom world public opinion to the possibility of a nuclear "first strike", warning strike or "demonstration strike".

He and Mr Honecker said in a joint statement that they considered substantial progress in American-Soviet arms talks in Geneva was both necessary and possible. Detente must be preserved and the arms race prevented.

□ Bonn: — However controversial they may be abroad, the views of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, on the Polish crisis are supported by a substantial majority at home, according to a poll published today (Patricia Clough writes).

The poll, conducted by the weekly illustrated magazine, Stern, found that 63 per cent believed the Government was right in not joining in sanctions against the Soviet Union and Poland; only 21 per cent disagreed.

Herr Schmidt's argument that economic and political pressure will not get more freedom for the Poles is shared by 55 per cent, and the same number believe that greater pressure would even threaten world peace.

West Germans seem less sure that the Chancellor can maintain his line. Only 43 per cent thought his policy of restraint, if continued further, would not endanger West Germany's relations and influence with the United States and France, and 35 per cent said it would.

A large proportion - 66 per cent - opposed stopping the giant gas-pipeline deal with the Soviet Union.

New grain embargo considered

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Jan 28

President Reagan is considering the possibility of reimposing a grain embargo on the Soviet Union if the situation in Poland continues to deteriorate.

However, unlike the grain embargo imposed by the Carter Administration in 1979, in protest over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, he said a new curb on grain sales would be implemented only as part of an overall embargo against the Soviet Union.

The President's remarks were made during an interview which was broadcast last night by CBS television news. He rejected "charges that he had so far refused to reimpose the grain embargo, which was lifted last year because of political pressure by the American farm lobby."

At the end of last year the President announced the postponement of talks on a new long-term grain agreement, which is due to expire in September, as part of a seven-point programme of sanctions against the Soviet Union.

Mr Reagan told his interviewer: "I do not exempt the embargoing of grain from one of the things that can be done. But I have always insisted that it should be part of a general embargo, that we shouldn't pick out one sector of our society and say, 'well, you pay the penalty'."

In the interview, the President reaffirmed that his Administration is determined to take further action against the Soviet Union unless three conditions are met in Poland: the lifting of martial law, the release of detainees and a resumption of dialogue between the Government, Solidarity and the Roman Catholic Church. However, he said he was not setting any deadlines.

The President praised the amount of unity which existed among the Western allies in their response to the Polish crisis. Noting that the allies promised not to do anything to undercut the effect of American sanctions, he said: "We have been more united on this subject than we have on any crisis in the last 20 years."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Jail plea in baby case

Munich. — The prosecutor has demanded a three-year sentence for a Munich doctor accused of the manslaughter of a newborn child. He also said that Dr Willi Appel, aged 47, a gynaecologist, should be barred from practising for life.

Herr Jürgen Hanreich was winding up the prosecution case on the fourth day of a trial which arose from the death of a baby girl after a Caesarean section performed by Dr Appel last April. Dr Appel admitted in court that he gave a lethal injection to the child. The baby had abnormally long limbs and a massively deformed head, he said. The verdict is expected today.

UN agrees to debate Golan

New York. — The United Nations Security Council voted to convene an emergency special session of the General Assembly to debate the Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights.

WHO ends link over S Africa

Geneva. — In a move without precedent, the World Health Organization has broken ties with the largest international medical association to penalize it for admitting South African doctors.



Garland greeting: Lord Carrington welcomed by Mr Mochtar Kusumaditmadja, Indonesia's Foreign Minister, at Jakarta airport at the start of a three-day visit.

Black bag admitted as coma trial evidence

From Our Correspondent, Newport, Rhode Island, Jan 28

A black wash bag and a hypodermic syringe with a residue of insulin are to be admitted as evidence in the trial of Mr Claus von Bulow, who is accused of trying to kill his wife.

Mr von Bulow, a Danish-born former London barrister, is charged with trying to kill his wife, Martha "Sunny" von Bulow, an heiress, with insulin injections in December, 1979, and December, 1980. She has been in an irreversible insulin coma for 14 months.

The defence contended that the bag and needle,

Reagan may act on Cuba

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 28

President Reagan has indicated that he may consider taking action against Cuba to counter Soviet arms shipments to Havana.

The President refused to comment on persistent reports that Cuba has recently received advanced MiG23s capable of carrying nuclear weapons, but said Cuba was being sent more arms by the Soviet Union than at any time since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

He made his remarks during an interview with Mr Dan Rather on CBS news last night.

His comments underscore the growing concern being expressed by the Administration, not only about the Cuban arms build-up but also over the flow of weapons from Cuba to Nicaragua and to leftist groups elsewhere in Central America. However, some observers think the United States is planning to use Cuba for exerting pressure on the Soviet Union over Poland.

He refused to say what steps his Administration might be thinking of taking against Cuba. "I rule nothing out, nothing in," he declared. "I would think that Cuba, if it was smart, would take another look and see if it didn't want to rejoin the Western hemisphere."

Accusing Cuba of being "a stooge for the Soviet Union" Mr Reagan said that Mr Haig had raised the question of Soviet arms shipments to Cuba when he met Mr Andrei Gromyko this week.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Acquittals over camp site blast

Madrid, — A court in Tarragona acquitted four of the six men accused in connexion with the 1978 Los Alfaques camp site explosion in which 215 people were killed. Two others were given suspended sentences of one year each (Harry Debelius writes).

The court also ruled that the convicted men, Alfredo Ortiz, manager of the plant where the tanker lorry, which later exploded at the camp site, was loaded beyond its capacity with propylene gas, and Francisco Molino, the plant's chief safety officer, must pay damages of £78,000. The court had found the two men guilty of reckless negligence.

The sentences were lighter than those demanded by the state prosecutor who had asked the court to jail all six defendants for periods from one to six years. Investigations showed that the tanker lorry had no safety valve and that little attention was paid normally to the load capacity of vehicles at the Tarragona Petrochemical Plant.

Driver blamed for crash

Delhi, — The driver's error of judgment and the flouting of safety regulations were the main causes of the rail accident in Agra, northern India, in which 41 people were injured, Mr P. C. Sethi, the federal Railway Minister, said here.

Mr Sethi told a press conference there was evidence that the 54-year-old driver had disregarded signal regulations.

Reprieve on eve of execution

Monrovia, — Mr Samuel Doe, the Liberian head of state, has reprieved six student leaders on the eve of their execution by firing squad for high treason. He said they were free to go home and return to school.

The six had been sentenced for breaching a ban on political activities and Mr Doe said they must accept this as a last warning. "We cannot ignore the gallant role students played in our revolution."

Judge puts case to Privy Council

Wellington, — Mr Justice Peter Mahon (above), who conducted a royal commission of inquiry into the 1979 Air New Zealand disaster in Antarctica, said he would apply for the case to be heard by the Privy Council in London.

His report blamed the airline for an administrative error. The announcement came two days after the New Zealand Government accepted his resignation from the High Court and agreed to pay costs if the judge wanted to pursue the issue further.

This year in Jerusalem

Strasbourg, — The political commission of the 21-nation Council of Europe upheld by 21 votes to eight a decision to hold its next meeting in Jerusalem on May 17, despite protests from Arab governments.

The objections arose after Israel's decision to annex the Golan Heights. Israel holds observer status in the European Assembly and the commission meets annually in one of the member states.

Ghana order to 'party thugs'

Accra, — Ghana's military rulers have ordered all members of the country's former secret service and military intelligence and "all thugs and activists" of deposed President Hilla Limann's banned People's National Party to report to the authorities. Failure to do so would amount to "a declaration of war on the revolution."

Meanwhile, at hearings taking evidence of corruption, Mr Nana Okutwre Bekoe the former party chairman, described President Limann as unable to control his ministers, who were allowed to do "whatever they wanted."

Power cut off

Bucharest, — Electricity power cuts in Bucharest have begun in an attempt to conserve energy. Power was cut for four hours in various sections of the capital on a rotating basis.

Haig's envoy to help revive stalled dialogue

From Christopher Walker, Tel Aviv, Jan 28

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, indicated today that the Reagan Administration will soon be appointing its first special negotiator to handle continuing efforts to reach agreement between Israel and Egypt on the vexed issue of Palestinian autonomy.

Speaking at Tel Aviv airport after his second visit to Israel within two weeks, Mr Haig dropped a broad hint that the man to be put in charge of one of the most intricate diplomatic problems in the Middle East will be Mr Richard Fairbanks.

Questioned directly about the appointment, Mr Haig said: "It is true that Mr Fairbanks has accompanied me on the trip, and I would suggest that would indicate his appointment to assist in the autonomy effort is under serious consideration, but there has been no decision as of this moment. I would anticipate one in the very near future."

In diplomatic circles, the decision is seen as a clear sign that the American Government regards the process leading to a possible autonomy agreement as being long and drawn out. It is also taken as evidence that Mr Haig will be distancing himself from the negotiations again after his close personal involvement over the past fortnight.

Mr Fairbanks is not a well-known political name outside Washington, where he has a reputation as a loyal follower of Mr Haig. Presently he is serving as a special assistant to the Secretary of State.

The sudden change of approach reflects growing concern in the State Department about the future of the whole Camp David process after April 26, the day when

Israel must hand back the remainder of Sinai to Egypt. The announcement of Mr Fairbanks's imminent appointment came at the end of a 24-hour visit to Israel during which the American delegation made little progress on the key issues which still divide the Israeli and Egyptian approaches to Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Despite some public claims of optimism by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Foreign Minister, Mr Haig made no attempt to disguise the seriousness of the problems still unsolved after two and a half years' of talking. He also confirmed speculation that the delegations are now only aiming for a declaration of principles rather than a detailed autonomy agreement which, it is now stated, would follow later.

Canadian Indians lose plea

By Our Foreign Staff

The British Government was not bound by treaties signed with Canadian Indians in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Court of Appeal in London ruled yesterday.

The Indian Association of Alberta had contested a ruling that obligations to them under the treaties and a Royal Proclamation of 1763 now rested with the Ottawa Government.

Lord Denning, the Master of the Rolls, said that promises given to the Indians over their land rights and other freedoms must be honoured "so long as the sun rises and the river flows", but the obligations of the Crown in Canada rested with the Government there, not in the United Kingdom.

The Canada Bill, which would patriate constitutional-making powers to Canada, did everything possible to protect the rights and freedoms of the aboriginal peoples. There was nothing to warrant distrust by the Indians of the Government of Canada.

Their rights and freedoms had been guaranteed to them by the Crown in Parliament, they should now be honoured by the Crown in Canada. It was not possible for the Indian people to bring an action in this country to enforce those obligations; they must be pursued in Canada.

The British Government agreed to delay the second reading of the Canada Bill while the appeal was heard. The ruling means it can now go ahead though it will face determined opposition in Parliament from supporters of the Canadian Indians.

Mr Willie Littlechild, legal adviser in Canada to the Indian association, said an appeal to the House of Lords was among options being considered.

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PAKISTANIS HOPEFUL ON TREATY

From Our Correspondent Islamabad, Jan 28

India and Pakistan hold their most important talks since the Simla agreement 10 years ago tomorrow and on Saturday, with initial discussions on a new treaty proposed by Islamabad.

Mr Agha Shahi, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, who leads his delegation to the talks in Delhi with Mr Narasimha Rao, India's Foreign Minister, said here today: "No one should underestimate the difficulties that lie in the way of reaching an agreement of such fundamental character, given the controversy that has surrounded the idea in the past."

But despite, "continuing scepticism in some circles in India about our motives and intentions," he emphasized that the talks could be the start of "a whole new ball game transforming political security and the strategic situation in the region."



Mikhail Suslov, the Soviet ideologist who died on Monday, lying in state in Moscow. Mr Brezhnev and other leaders paid their last respects yesterday.

Gun battle grounds hijackers

Cali, Colombia, Jan 28, — Colombian leftist guerrillas holding 66 people on board a hijacked airliner have offered to exchange their hostages for a new aircraft to fly them to Central America, military sources said today.

The Boeing 727 of the Colombian Aerial airline which they seized yesterday during a short domestic flight was damaged by gunfire last night when troops tried to storm it. The guerrillas, six men and a woman, freed 62 of their 128 hostages last night, a presidency spokesman said today.

Earlier reports said 86 had been freed after the aircraft landed in this south-west Colombian city. The Government has rejected a demand for a new, fully-fuelled aircraft and mediator by Mgr Juan Francisco Sarasty, Archbishop of Cali, and two local journalists.

The hijackers' leader, who calls himself Commander Three, told the local military commander they would release all the hostages in exchange for an aircraft to

fly to an unspecified Central American country.

(A separate report said all but two of the hostages would be released. They would accompany the hijackers on a small private jet out of the country.)

Military sources quoted the captain as saying the hijackers leader had again threatened to blow up the aircraft when his demands for a new aircraft were rejected. The M19 guerrillas, armed with grenades and automatic weapons, hijacked the aircraft during a 20-minute flight from Bogota to the central city of Pereira.

After forcing the pilot to return to Bogota they threatened to blow up the aircraft if a government commissioner was not brought to the airport. They then ordered the pilot to fly the 300 miles to Cali after asking for a flight chart covering Central America.

As the aircraft appeared to be preparing to take off from Cali, troops rushed towards it, shredding the tyres with

bullets and puncturing the fuel tank.

Other reports say the aircraft collided with an Army lorry driven into its path as it moved along the runway to take off. The driver of an airport bus that picked up the freed passengers claimed he heard shouts and explosions on board the aircraft.

The M-19 guerrilla group seized the Dominican Embassy in Bogota in February, 1980, and held several ambassadors and diplomats for two months. In December, 1980, the guerrillas hijacked a Boeing 727 belonging to Colombia's Avianca airline and were subsequently granted political exile in Cuba. — Reuters.

□ The M-19 or April 19 movement takes its name from the date that the late Gustavo Rojas, a dictator who ruled Colombia from 1953 to 1957, lost a presidential election in 1970. (AP reports). His followers, claiming he was cheated of victory through electoral fraud,

Operation Condor reaches for the sky

From Ivor Davis Ventura, California, Jan 28

One of the biggest and most expensive gambles in the history of America's endangered species programme has begun with an attempt to save the giant California condor from extinction.

A team of wildlife specialists will hunt into the foothills of this coastal town and set up elaborate traps to capture the ungainly condors in the first programme of its kind ever attempted.

There are now only between 20 and 30 condors, the largest North American land birds left. Scientists at the Condor Research Centre in Ventura feel the \$1m (£520,000) survival programme offers the only hope of saving the birds.

However, Operation Condor does not have the blessings of all environmentalists. Critics say that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society are going about the task in the wrong way by using high technology when simpler, less risky methods could save the condors.

The plan is to trap young birds for breeding and to take two of them and fit them with solar powered radio transmitters, the size of a man's pocket watch on their wings.

The trappers plan to spread a 50ft nylon net on the ground, camouflage it with leaves and place a carcass in the middle as bait. Lead weights attached to the net by cord will then be packed into miniature cannons. When fired the cannons will throw the weights and the net in an arc over a condor that has settled on the bait.

Besides breeding the birds in captivity, wildlife experts, thanks to the radio transmitters, hope to be able to tell scientists where the birds range.

Namibian talks make good progress

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Jan 28

Marked progress has been made recently in the talks on the independence of Namibia between the five-nation Western contact group and the various African parties concerned, according to American officials.

However, the front-line African states and the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) still have reservations about constitutional aspects of the Namibian independence plan.

Despite these which centre on the proposed voting arrangements for a constituent assembly in the disputed territory, American officials appear confident that full agreement will soon be reached on the first phase of the Western settlement plan. This phase deals with constitutional principles, including voting arrangements and a bill of rights.

Only when full agreement has been reached on phase one will the negotiating group — Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Canada — present their proposals for the second phase.

South Africa and the internally-based political organization, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance contend that the United Nations is biased in favour of SWAPO. Mr R F Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, recently criticized Senator Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, for his "inability to act in a just and unbiased manner."

Despite this broadside and the failure to reach final agreement on first phase, American officials appear more optimistic about an internationally-recognized settlement than have been since the Reagan Administration came to power.

Advertisement for Telemessage service. The ad features a large, stylized background image of a document or envelope. Text on the ad includes:

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- Center: "Opened by the secretar"
- Below center: "① Telemessage"
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Getting through to busy people can be less than easy at times. Unless, of course, you use the new Telemessage. Its yellow and blue livery stands out from the ruck of the mail. You can be sure it'll reach the person it's addressed to. And, so long as you send it in by 8pm (6pm on Sunday), we'll deliver the very next working day or refund your money. Just dial 100 (190 in London) and ask for the Telemessage service. Or send us a telex. In either case, we won't charge you for the call. For any message that's simply got to get through, it's good value at £3 plus VAT for 50 words, particularly as the name and address come free. For a free leaflet, with all the details including telex numbers, just write to: British TELECOM

THE ARTS

Television

Fence and offence

The cost of keeping one child behind the 18ft wire fence at Glenhorne Youth Treatment Centre in Birmingham is £32,000 a year and, with the best will in the world, it was hard to see, from Peter Gordon's film for Forty Minutes (BBC2), how on earth it had been set up in the first place, or was likely to have much future in the age of the short sharp shock.

Glenhorne is not (what-ever *Radio Times* says) a prison, since it operates outside the penal system and takes both those under the age of 18 who have proved themselves to be incorrigible elsewhere and child criminals convicted of arson, murder, robbery and rape. The methods of selection were admitted as quite arbitrary since Glenhorne employs two staff to each inmate and could never take more than 10 children at one time — but he aims at least were clear.

They are reform and rehabilitation by close personal contact and a delicate system of "contracts", penalties and rewards. Those living within the security unit are locked in their rooms at night, those outside it are helped to find work while continuing to live at the centre. It is working? After less than four years it was too soon to say. Much kindness and pragmatic intelligence was seen in action, but the fight at the disco dance must have alarmed everyone, and the tones of professional frustration raised their weary head, despite the presence of the cameras, at least once.

Wildlife on One (BBC1) offered beboos, always good value, here first seen twinkling in the windscreen wipers of those who ignored the rules of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and mad-dened them with junk food. Baboons with the nerve actually to attack humans are of course short without question and the colony has now shrunk from 60 to seven. Meanwhile, back in the maquis above the blue sea down the coast (how glorious it looks), Glenda, Carter, Harriet and Sam continued to live off acacia pods, lily corns and ice plants, as they have always done.

Glenda sustained her position as first lady despite an admired pregnancy by Harriet, and Sam fought off a sneaky challenge from Carter and a more substantial one from Nick. Not even the blandness of a mid-evening script ("Thirteen quenching, high noon brings a new time", etc.) could dim the energy of the subject, of the ancient Egyptian beauty of a baboon sitting bolt upright and absolutely still on the skyline looking down its long, dark nose.

Michael Ratcliffe

Tasmanian magic and mystery

Manganinnie (U)/A
Personal History of the Australian Surf (A)

Paris Pullman

Ghost Story (AA)

Ritz

It Hurts Only When I Laugh (AA)

Columbia

Ticket to Heaven (AA)

Classic, Haymarket;
Odeon, Kensington

Until now, Tasmania's chief gift to the cinema was Errol Flynn. But with *Manganinnie*, part of an Australian double bill at the Paris Pullman cinema — the situation has changed. At least three key personnel — the director (John Honey), composer (Peter Sculthorpe) and author of the original novel (Beth Roberts) — are all Tasmanian-born. The extraordinary landscapes which dominate the film are also the genuine article: dense woods and fierce crags, thunderous waterfalls and majestic coastlines.

Australian films of the past ten years have set great store by visual precision, often to the detriment of their narratives. But the Tasmanian landscape is inseparable from the story *Manganinnie* tells: the adventures of a young child of white settlers, Joanna, who drifts from the loving care of an Aboriginal woman, Joana, to a tribe massacred by soldiers. The Aboriginal *Manganinnie*, formerly searches for signs of her people. Joana accompanies her, learns tribal customs and "the secret of things that burn", and is finally returned to hearth and home — her eyes opened to an alien but magical lifestyle.

The great strength of *Manganinnie* lies in its refusal to fritter away the magic and mystery Joana discovers. John Honey (a director with much television experience) rarely succumbs to luscious, snapshot imagery, preferring to train his camera on the strange couple of Aboriginal foster mother and white child, clambering over the terrain. Dialogue is at a minimum, but this only enhances the eloquence of the lead performances. Young Anna Ralph, for instance, never acts as such; the only acts her age — a child of seven, portending about a brave new world, the emotions of fear and delight flashing across her face. There is a similar natural dignity about the *Manganinnie* of Mawoyul Yathalawuy (a pre-school teacher at Darwin's Aboriginal reserve), who rears her charge with tribal language, song and laughter, quick gestures and darting eyes.

To be sure, this entrancing film has faults. The periodic narration by a grown-up Joanna fits uneasily into the structure. More details would be welcome about the means of survival in the bush (there are a dog and a pet wombat to feed, apart



Growing up in Australia: the young Michael Blakemore and friend in "A Personal History" (top); and Joanna in "Manganinnie" chances upon an aboriginal skull.

from two humans). But faults pale beside the achievement of *Manganinnie*: a moving story of trust and love between two people of different civilisations; a first film of modest ambition, completely and confidently fulfilled.

The supporting film is another first venture, *A Personal History of the Australian Surf*, written and directed by the theatre director Michael Blakemore, long resident in England. By all the rules this should have been a narcissistic disaster, a home movie spun out of control, not content with guiding us through his upbringing in person, Blakemore also plays his own father, admonishing and advising his younger self in tiny re-enacted scenes. But the result defies expectations. It is wonderfully terse and witty, bouncing with ironic reflections on

adolescent dreams and the country that nurtured and hindered them. Blakemore's father tried to make young Michael in his own image — a respected physician, a golf club member, Blakemore's schools tried to make him a super-athlete. Blakemore himself was interested in magic shows, the movies, frivolous entertainments that did not build muscles. Surfing proved to be the only common denominator — "a whole youth movement and transport system rolled into one", as a contemporary newswire commented. But even life on Bondi Beach fails to hold Blakemore to Australia; after spasmodically studying medicine at Sydney University he sails away and starts a new career at RADA. Blakemore's work at the National Theatre and elsewhere has included

Interview: Adam Pollock

Mozart's music in a bright new frame

Text Wednesday at the Old Vic, *Musica nel Chiostro* will present the theatrical challenge to beat all challenges: they will stage, for the first time in Britain, an opera with neither a beginning nor an end and with only a tantalisingly vague middle. All that remains of Mozart's abandoned sing-song *Zeide* is 15 exquisitely scored musical numbers: the spoken dialogue either is lost or never existed, and the connecting lot and denouement are anyone's guess. In this case, though, that anyone happens to be one of Italy's greatest living writers, Italo Calvino.

Previous realizations of the work have patched it up with dialogue based on the story of *Zeide* from the nearby *Inführung aus dem Seral* to which *Zeide* has superficial resemblances, and filled it out with extraneous pieces of music. But this was not good enough for Adam Pollock, founder and designer of *Musica nel Chiostro* and guiding spirit behind *Zeide*. Convinced that the nature of the work was significantly different from *Die Entführung* and that the music must be staged in its own right, he left his way towards the idea of a narrator, and commissioned Italo Calvino to construct a story into which Mozart's music would convincingly fit.

The result is a new text, unfolded by a narrator, acted out by the singers, and arriving, by way of a good deal of witty comment on



Adam Pollock (left) and Italo Calvino: "I suppose it was an awful cheek, I just asked him to his face."

eighteenth-century opera itself, at four possible conclusions. It derives its energy from the constant fluctuation between involvement and distancing, that ambivalent relationship between presenter and public that characterizes so much of Calvino's writing. As in his latest novel, *If on a Winter's Night a Traveller*, we are offered alternative narrative threads: just as we become involved with the emotions of a character in an aria, the prism turns and the narrator is offering another hypothesis, teasing our sensibilities, shifting the horizon. Colours, scenes and bright images pass as rapidly as in Marco Polo's travellers' tales in *Invisible Cities*, mirages of the Orient hover and fade.

"A new Mozart opera with a Calvino text — it's just like having God write something for you!" Adam Pollock can still hardly believe his luck. When he escaped to Italy from the claustrophobia of a successful interior and stage design career at the end of the Sixties, and acquired a ruined monastery in Tuscany, even the thoughts of forming an opera company were far away. But opera was

where his interest and contacts lay and the building was crying out for a function. By the seventeenth and eighteenth-century repertoire, which so well suits the small space and forces at Batignano, but looks forward to more twentieth-century works as well. A double bill of Britten's *Rape of Lucretia* and Cavalli's *Mutio Scévola* is on the cards for next year, and Pollock would like to hire Stephen Oliver whose *The Garden* they performed in 1977 for another idea he has up his sleeve. "I find the beauty and the beast tale a fascinating one... her house, and the Beast's palace as the same building seen in a slightly different way..."

The projected librettist remains anonymous, but Adam Pollock looks rather pleased with himself. As the close-knit company shifts and evolves, so does the widening and increasingly loyal audience. That is where Calvino comes in. "He'd been coming and supporting us since 1976 and I thought he'd be the ideal person to solve the *Zeide*

problem. He knows a lot about the eighteenth century and is a storyteller with a delicacy and wit that I thought would make something marvelous. I suppose it was an awful cheek, but I just asked him to his face. After a year of waiting, throwing out ideas, as if by a miracle it happened. Just as he was moving from Paris to Rome he turned up and said 'Is this the sort of thing that would do?' We made a few modifications in the placing of the musical numbers, but the work is entirely his vision."

In Batignano, where the work was premiered last summer, the set was, doubly appropriately, a building in the places of reconstruction at Venice, where it plays in the Palazzo Grassi on February 20, 22, and 23, the stage is a platform such as is used at high tide. At the Old Vic, Pollock's setting is inspired by a Christie's auction he once went to there: the trunk, full of wigs and manuscripts, which opens the work, is the object of value.

But *Musica nel Chiostro* is, first and last, music in the cloister. Pollock wants nothing of the company does in England to affect the spirit of the place where it all began. He plans to continue the seventeenth and eighteenth-century repertoire, which so well suits the small space and forces at Batignano, but looks forward to more twentieth-century works as well. A double bill of Britten's *Rape of Lucretia* and Cavalli's *Mutio Scévola* is on the cards for next year, and Pollock would like to hire Stephen Oliver whose *The Garden* they performed in 1977 for another idea he has up his sleeve. "I find the beauty and the beast tale a fascinating one... her house, and the Beast's palace as the same building seen in a slightly different way..."

Hilary Finch

Cinema

some extremely nimble comedies (*The Front Page*, *Pravdas on Parade*, *Make and Break*), and he transfers all his fast footwork to the new medium of cinema. Commentary, newsreels, photographs, the past and present — all are dovetailed with impish speed. The re-enacted, often wordless, scenes are also cleverly judged, with wistful stares shuffling from his offspring. But the overall tone is dictated by the director's commentary: crisp, tongue-in-cheek, constantly savouring the absurdities of his past, like the magic show programme describing his own act as "a garland of wonders from the fingers of Mike".

A Personal History, one might say, is a further garland. Blakemore's film runs for 52 minutes; it takes almost as long for John Irving's Hollywood production from Blakemore's son and gives its audience a story worth telling. Instead, we have a kaleidoscope of disturbing events, echoing the teasing mosaic of Irvin's television success *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*. Veteran actors like Fred Astaire and the late Melvyn Douglas have nightmares in bed; there are sudden falls from tall buildings and bridges, shots of a rotting corpse. Had the script (from Peter Straub's novel) pursued a chronological line, the story's message would certainly be blunted, but Irvin is still treating his audience in a high-handed way. We need to be hooked, and there is not enough bait. Nevertheless, *Ghost Story* does have its pleasures. The cast also includes Douglas Fairbanks Junior, beaming down from the big screen for the first time since *Mr Drake's Duck* in 1951; the photograph of Jack Cardiff, another veteran — is atmospheric and chilly. The ghost is potent too; if only its story corresponded.

Neil Simon's *It Hurts Only When I Laugh* presents audiences with the reverse of a story tied down by conventions. But at least the conventions are the author's own. This is a typical, average product of the Neil Simon factory, assembled from spare parts of a 1970 play, *The Gingerbread Lady*. The trademarks are clearly visible: wisecracks and tears, an over-optimistic running time (two hours); an autobiographical element, boosted by the presence of Simon's wife Marsha Mason. But fidelity to Neil Simon is no substitute for fidelity to life; even the film's theatrical milieu is implied (Mason plays an actress coming back to Broadway and her discarded daughter) and the discarded daughter (the bottle). Luckily the lively performances provide some compensation.

Ticket to Heaven also benefits from its acting, especially the performance of Nick Mancuso, who bears the haunted look of early John Cassavetes. As the story proceeds Mancuso grows more and more haunted, trapped in the Young Pioneers Community Centre — a bland title for a religious cult which enriches the coffers of a remote messiah and businessman. Given the cult, it was inevitable that a film would soon emerge, something the fearful effects of indoctrination. At least this Canadian production, directed by R. L. Thomas, leaves scope for future film-makers: its narrative hunches about, and the phenomenon is explored with a sure hand. The distributor, charmingly, is Miramax Films.

Geoff Brown

Concerts

ECO/Bedford

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Sir William Walton will be 80 a month today. No doubt we shall hear all his big works during this year. On Wednesday the English Chamber Orchestra paid homage to his chamber orchestral music, which does include one early masterpiece, the original *Facade*, with two speakers occupied the second half and it was prefaced by two other works which commemorate later landmarks in his career. Walton's film music deserves re-exploration this year, the wartime propaganda films and the pre-war revivals of *Escape Me Never* and *As You Like It*, both with lustrous Elisabeth Bergner, as well as the Shakespearean trilogy with Lord Olivier, here represented by two short extracts from *Henry V*.

The Sonata for string orchestra may not have much now to tell musical youngsters. It is full of reminiscences of good music that Walton had written before the war, and they sound more immediately personal in the music's original shape as his *A Minor String*.

Souza/Bowman

Wigmore Hall

Less than half an hour before his recital was due to begin, Gérard Souza was still undecided whether or not to go on. His voice betrayed hardly a trace of any virus infection; but the nervous strain of such prolonged indecision showed through the first half, dulling the voice's lustre, sapping its movement. It emphasized, those qualities peculiar to Souza which can be distracting at the best of times: a sense of sucking the breath and the words through the teeth, a blurring of diction and intonation. Chausson came off best, with Souza capturing the transcendence of "Nos souvenirs" and filling out the sails of "Sérénade Italienne" with warmly sustained breath.

Hilary Finch

Theatre

An unforgiving past

Summer

Cottesloe

In this quiet, uneventful piece, chronicling a holiday reunion in an East European seaside resort, Edward Bond sets out to examine the unforgiving hold of the past over the present and the atrocities that co-exist with ordinary human kindness. Xenia returns from England to the house where she grew up during the war, and which is now occupied by the family's former servant Marthe. The reunion is affectionate; and the only tension comes from their children, Ann and David, on whether to resume their affair of the previous year. This issue is swept aside by the news that Marthe is dying of cancer. And Bond first shows his claws in a magnificent speech in which David (a doctor) anatomizes the incurable nature of the disease in merciless technical detail with the double purpose of halting Xenia's meddling intrusions and reconciling his mother to her death.

The jaws of the past then begin to close with Marthe's recollections of the German occupation when she, together with a crowd of other women, was rounded up for execution, and escaped through Xenia's intervention.

But you would be wrong in supposing that this leaves her with any gratitude towards any member of the family that once "owned half the town." The family, she says, were sometimes hated: they were "also loved and respected, which was worse." The scene then shifts to an outlying island where Xenia (whose father was destroyed by the Nazis) falls into frosty conversation with a German tourist: an amiable middle-aged man with big eyes for her lunch basket, who turns out to have been in the army of occupation. Their conversation, moreover, takes place in front of the execution rock.

If that sounds too neat to be true, Bond turns it to wonderful effect by allowing this polite refrigerator salesman, pitifully obsessed by the need to get back to the hotel by dinner time, to expand on the horrors of the past, attaining a level of nightmare poetry in the memory of floating execution victims, blocking the harbour and refusing to sink. Here, if anywhere, *Summer* imagines, vividly vindicates Marthe's key statement that "you can live without kindness, you can't live without justice."

With the return to the



Yvonne Bryceland: stoic dignity

house, this statement takes on another form in a nocturnal encounter between the former mistress and servant, reaching its climax when Marthe, acting on behalf of the women she left to die, spits in her rescuer's face. As staged in Bond's production, this moment misfires. You are more worried about Marthe's present health than the revenge of the dead; and it also exposes the way in which sympathies have been rigged.

Like Bond's fables, *Summer* is presented as a cool objective work, explaining the attack on the world as if to a group of children. I like that approach if it is honest, and Bond does play fair so far as Xenia is concerned. Anna Massey gives her a mosquito-like attack, every inch the haughty boutique proprietor, but there is no suggestion of her individual guilt.

But on Marthe he showers all the blessings he can devise: peasant origin, non-cooperation, and, above all, impending death from which she takes authority to make self-righteous authorial pronouncements on history, and freeze the company, when laying for breakfast, with lines like "Make the table beautiful. I won't see many more beautiful things." Yvonne Bryceland gives her stoic dignity, which is all you have a right to expect.

Hayden Griffin's hinged set locates the production in its proper zone, suspended between history and fable; and David Yelland and Eleanor David complete the play as black-faced Bond innocents who may do better than their roles. What I shall most remember of *Summer* is David Ryall as the German, plaintively scanning the sea for his children and saying how terrible it would be to go home alone.

Irving Wardle

Shriek!

Churchill, Bromley

What I saw in Bromley on Wednesday was a preview of a thriller by Ian Blair. What anyone sees for the rest of the run at the Churchill Theatre is likely to be a preview — of what will probably be seen at a later date in the West End. Thrillers almost always make the trip, and there is the added attraction of Lynsey de Paul, more normally a singer and songwriter, appearing briefly in her first dramatic role.

There are indications that the play was never intended for the stage at all. With Emma Jackson's starkly functional designs — ingeniously flexible concrete walls that might have been borrowed from the National Theatre — the moves from a murder in what appears to be an underground car park are neatly made to a policeman's house, to a club used by whores and pimps, a police station, recording studios and to a drug dealer's flat. Only a duck pond in a park

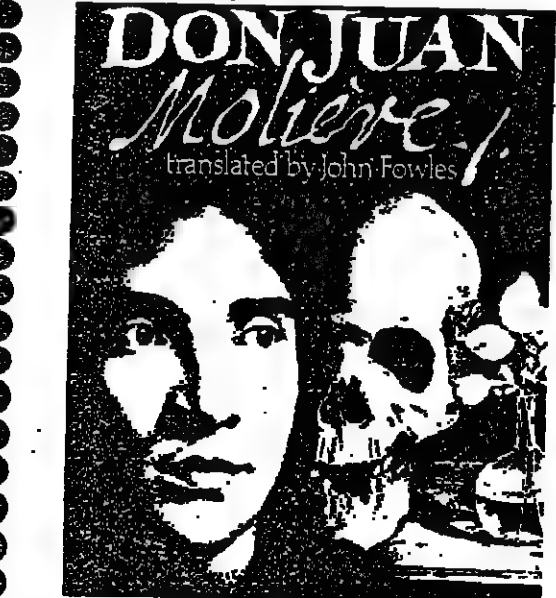
refuses to fit into her scheme, but the trail of murders and investigations suggests that film was the father to the play.

Mr Blair lays an elaborate trail of deception, giving motives to all the men, since the murders are all the same sort, and Miss de Paul is chiefly required to be impressively a song of her own composition and pose as the mistress of the policeman investigating the murders. That part is Maurice Colbourne, impressively played. Phillip Partridge's production has pace and menace, but there is a problem. Mr Blair, refreshingly, seems to know nothing of criminal or police procedures. Gratuitous police bullying, impoverished drug dealers and snappy banner ads for a variety of the colourful crime of Croydon. His innocence speaks well of his private life, but simplifies his twisting story.

He is lucky that Mr Partridge is so swift to move the actors in what is a fairly elaborate shell-game. The confusions work because the police rarely do what the law requires.

Ned Chaillet

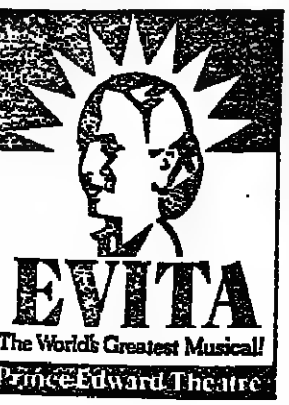
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David Watt

Why Prior cannot ignore Paisley and the Provos

Although the general election in the Irish Republic may be delayed by two or three weeks, another Northern Ireland "initiative" is in the offing, and Mr James Prior, its proud author, is already being told on all sides that he has about as much chance of solving the Ulster problem by fiddling with new constitutional options as a babe in arms has of solving Rubik's Cube. Why does he not go on quietly running the province from Westminster like that nice Mr Roy Mason, instead of stirring things up and making them worse like poor Premier-pecked Mr Humphrey Atkins?

The crucial answer to the last part of the question is that Mr Prior has little choice but to have another go. The idea that direct Westminster rule is the least of the available evils has been the prevailing conventional wisdom for most of the last 10 years. It may have been true for some of that period. But the position has looked less and less tenable as the atmosphere in Northern Ireland has deteriorated during the past nine months, and now actually begins to look like a recipe for long-term calamity.

It may seem odd to assert this when the security situation has been comparatively quiet and when the Provisional IRA has received several major blows at the hands of the army and the RUC. Nevertheless, it is a sad irony that these military successes are overshadowed by a shift to political extremism. Two developments have marked this change — the growing power of Mr Ian Paisley and the emergence of the Provisionals into the political arena.

Since the election of Bobby Sands, the election of Bobby Sands, the Provisional hunger-striker, to the Westminster Parliament, and since the Northern Ireland local elections last May, the politics of the province have been polarized more than at any time since the emergency began.

On the Catholic side, moderate SDLP leaders like Mr John Hume have been driven into more and more Republican positions in order to avoid being outflanked by Sinn Féin, and now appear to have rejected all settlements, however temporary, in the election of the six counties in Northern Ireland. On the Protestant front, the Official Unionist Party is increasingly split and looks more and more like disintegrating. And underlying both these shifts is a social demoralization.

But since there is no other opening shot on the board it is not surprising that Mr Prior should be reported to be trying the consultative Assembly again, with added inducements to the parties to make proper use of it.

What might these be? The most valuable from the Catholic point of view would be watchdog and veto powers over some aspects of administration, particularly as they affect human rights and non-discrimination for the Protestants. It is more difficult to devise alternatives, unless the Assembly gives them renewed access to power — which seems to be excluded by all the reasons which led to direct rule in the first place.

But is it? Mr Prior's contribution to the debate seems to have been to question this last assumption. According to the leaks from Belfast, he has thought up a

DUP (Paisleyite) 22 (31 percent)
Official Unionist 18 (26 percent)
SDLP 18 (26 percent)
Alliance 8 (11 percent)
Sinn Féin 4 (6 percent)

These figures (which are, by the way, my own illustrative guesses) show that if one set the executive "trigger" at 60 per cent of the votes in the Assembly, one would be uncomfortably close to giving the Paisleyites and the Official Unionists control (my own figures would give them 57 per cent together). On the other hand, if one sets the trigger at 70 per cent, one would (on my figures) give the Paisleyites a veto over any combination of parties.

It requires nice judgment, not only about the present strengths, but also future trends, if one is to give strong encouragement to the Northern Ireland politicians to blur the edges of their differences and make coalitions across sectarian boundaries, without at the same time making it either too easy or too difficult. Nobody is likely to boycott the elections (the trial of strength is too tempting) but Mr Paisley will assuredly boycott the Assembly if it does not find himself somewhere within striking distance of power after the elections — and the SDLP will boycott it if it appears that Protestant control is likely to be re-established.

To these difficulties must be added the vital problem of whether Mr Prior should hold out the prospect that an Executive would control security. Irresponsibility will never be eradicated from Northern Ireland politicians until the security function is restored to them and shared in some way between the two communities, but the sensitivity of the issue is so great that no government at Westminster dare transfer the function to politicians who are so irresponsible.

This is the final twist at the centre of the maze in which Ulster politics is lost, and there is no sign as yet that Mr Prior has penetrated it. And yet it would be curious to criticize. He has already brought fresh imagination and a sense of movement to the scene and has grasped the fact that while there are no possible policies which are not fraught with appalling risk, we have now reached a point where the riskiest policy of all is to do nothing.

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James Prior: not much choice...

'scheme which leaves' the Protestants with some light at the end of their tunnel — by stipulating that if the Assembly, as duly elected, can put together a stable and responsible Executive from its own members, the Westminster Government will hand over to that Executive.

The question, as yet unanswered, is what criteria are to be applied in judging what is stable and responsible. Clearly, a simple majority of the Assembly will not suffice, since that would obviously be a simple return to the Stormont system. But if a simple majority is not the answer, where should the hurdle be placed?

The problem can best be seen by looking at a plausible result of elections this spring for an Assembly of, say, 70 members (the number proposed by Mr Atkins):

Twenty years of honed-up housewives

Everyone is thankful for their friends. But how do you find them? If you move from one neighbourhood to another, far away, you leave behind your friends, your life support systems of baby sitting and taking in parcels and milk bottles and, even worse, you have no one to talk to.

In 1960 Maureen Nichol, then a housebound housewife (with two small children) moved from the suburbs of Wolverhampton where, she says, "it took me two years to get a kindred spirit who was willing to do exchange baby sitting during the day". In her new home she had to start all over again, and she wrote a letter to *The Guardian*, outlining her predicament, in something of a cry from the heart.

The world that mothers and children live in is also isolated. Many could not exchange anything like a reasonable conversation with another adult during the day, until their husbands came home in the evening.

Maureen Nichol, the founder of the NHR, contributes a chapter on the beginning of the NHR and her letter resulted in the National

Housewives Register, an organization that, 20 years later, has more than 21,000 members meeting in 1,080 neighbourhood groups.

Like all great ideas, it was relatively simple. The 1960s, as Betty Jermain points out, was a transitional period for women. No longer did women consider themselves to be ordained housewives from the moment they married. At the same time, the educational opportunities for young women were not yet available for them to qualify for work traditionally done by men. There was a great physical upheaval in that people moved to new housing estates, and to better housing away from their friends and families.

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Maureen Nichol, the founder of the NHR, contributes a chapter on the beginning of the NHR and her letter resulted in the National

member. First she had a job at Nathan's, the theatrical costumier, then came marriage, a move to Oxford where she worked, had a baby, and moved, through her husband's job, to a very large council estate, which had provided one public house for the entertainment of the hundreds of people living there. Several dozen letters came as a result of her piece in *The Guardian*, and she rather reluctantly set about compiling a National Register with no telephone, no car, no money, no time and no typewriter. She wrote to *The Guardian* again about this and the avalanche started. The appointment of six regional officers followed. An article by the talented and sympathetic journalist, Moira Keenan, then on *The Sunday Times*, brought more than a thousand letters: other newspapers were not so sympathetic: the *Daily Mirror* asked "Will this lead to a break-up of the home?"

It is a touching, funny and inspiring story. No money was available, and small sums were anxiously discussed — could they ask as much as five shillings membership? The original "office" was a collection of hand written letters in a shoebox in a kitchen cupboard. Leslie Taylor — an early National Organizer — returned home from the maternity ward with a new baby having dealt with hundreds of letters during her ten days there.

Twenty years on there is a national conference every year, and the informality has been regularized on a national level, with a constitution. All this had to be done — there was, for example, the discovery of a claim for VAT resulting in a bill for £500, for which funds did not exist.

They were all very anxious not to impose hierarchical structures, and "power seekers" were very few. No one has become rich or famous working for the NHR — no one has used it as a stepping stone towards a job in the public eye.

Philippa Toomey

When the Red Brigades' terror was at its height the body of the former Prime Minister Aldo Moro was found in a parked car in Rome in 1978. His murder caused deep political repercussions throughout Italy.

Are the Red Brigades cracking at last?

Rome This winter of recession and unemployment was seen to provide Italian terrorists with their great opportunity. Instead there is some justification in now supposing that it may mark the long-awaited turn for the worst in terrorist fortunes.

Many of the known terrorist leaders are in prison. The freeing yesterday of General James L. Dozier, with the capture of five terrorists, was a dramatic blow to the militant wing of the Red Brigades, the far left guerrilla movement. It follows the arrest early this month of representatives of the opposing wing within the movement which was no less violent but was more political in its approach to the way kidnappings and murders should be exploited.

In particular, the arrest in Rome on January 7 of Giovanni Senzani decapitated a terrorist column already strong and active which was making a bid for leadership of the main terrorist forces in Italy. Many of what are known as the "historic chiefs" of terrorism, including Renato Curcio, recognized as one of the founders of the Red Brigades, had been arrested or re-arrested after escaping from prison.

In April, Mario Moretti, the ablest of the activists, whose exploits were coming dangerously near to the legendary in public opinion because of his apparent ability to keep at least a step ahead of the authorities, fell into a police trap in Milan. Then, with Senzani caught asleep in his bed in a Rome apartment full of weapons and plans for future attacks, the beast of terrorism suffered another in a series of multiple wounds.

A sinister growth which has developed over a full decade will not easily be destroyed. The Red Brigades movement, which became the most powerful of all, came on to the scene in August 1970 less than a year after Italy had its first experience of political terrorism. Its beginning is normally dated to December 12, 1968, when terrorists still officially unknown placed a bomb in a Milan bank which killed 16 people and injured about 100.

The Milan bank bombing is still technically under investigation. Public opinion normally sees it as a crime committed by the extreme right and not the extreme left and the same was true about the bombing of the "Italcica" express train in August 1974 and the tragic explosion at

Bologna railway station in August 1980. There is seen to be an essential difference between the terrorism of the extreme left and those of the extreme right. The former do not favour the latter's method of spectacular and indiscriminate massacre such as marked the Milan and Bologna bombings. In their decade of public activity, the Red Brigades and other groups aligning themselves on the left have grown increasingly violent but even now show some discrimination. In April, 1974, they carried out their first political kidnapping. They held a judge, Dr Mario Sossi, for 35 days and subjected him to "trial" but then released him.

Two months later they opened their own path of bloodshed by killing two neo-fascists in Padua, the city where General Dozier was liberated yesterday. They claimed that those killings resulted in the killing of a girl — allegedly a terrorist — called Anna Maria Ludmann. She originally came from Trieste. Her name was adopted by the Red Brigades column active in the Veneto area, which later played a leading part in General Dozier's kidnapping.

Genoa had also been the scene of Dr Sossi's kidnapping and, with Turin and Milan, was one of the early centres of left-wing terrorism. A police action there against a Red Brigades base resulted in the killing of a girl — allegedly a terrorist — called Anna Maria Ludmann. She originally came from Trieste. Her name was adopted by the Red Brigades column active in the Veneto area, which later played a leading part in General Dozier's kidnapping.

The most spectacular terrorist action and the only one that can be said to have substantially changed the internal political scene, was the kidnapping of Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader and former prime minister, who was held for 55 days with efforts at reaching an agreement between the governing Christian Democrats and the Communists. He was seized on March 16, 1978, after his bodyguard of five men had been killed. He himself was murdered on May 9 in the centre of old Rome.

If the terrorists have been unable to match that operation since, the chronology of terrorist violence continued regularly to blast Italian lives. Early last year the terrorists looked nearly invincible when they kidnapped

sapped and held hostage four persons simultaneously, two of whom they killed, while two were released, including a Christian Democrat politician from the Naples area who was widely said to have been ransomed. The Dozier kidnapping was the first in which the victim was a non-Italian and in this sense was seen to be opening a new phase. In fact, what came about looked more like a misreading of the signs.

Slowly, something new had emerged. The atmosphere is different. Public opinion has gradually shown more confidence in the past few weeks, and in particular since General Dozier's release, that the time may at last have finished when the terrorists set the pace.

This is not the first time that hopes have been raised and no one can expect that a sinister growth which has had a decade in which to develop can lightly be removed. Moreover, the terrorists still had ambitious plans to judge by the reported contents of documents found in Senzani's flat. There was to be an assault on a maximum security prison, more kidnappings for political or financial benefit and — most dramatic of all — a massacre of Christian Democrat leaders at the party national council held last week.

There are also specific examples to illustrate public feeling. On January 11 a trade unionist won a standing ovation from the Alfa Romeo workers assembly when he referred to terrorists as "those damned bastards". The unions have always been leashed by the crowd if the carabinieri had not rushed them away. The results of the rounding up of the group to which those two belonged was the discovery of five more secret bases in Rome and Naples.

Another factor in this change was more essentially Italian; for some weeks it has become clear that the Red Brigades themselves have been afflicted by faction. The old idea of the tightly organized relentless little monolith no longer stood. For instance, Senzani is now said to have had a different outlook from

Moretti and from the militants of the Anna Maria Ludmann column. All of them, of course, believe in violence to reach their political ends, but personal ambition is also obvious in Senzani's case and ideological differences must arise from the various approaches taken by different columns and by individuals within a particular column.

This is a long way from the organization devised a decade ago by Curcio and the other "historic chiefs". They devised a hybrid derived from the experience of the resistance movement and the Latin American Tupamaros. The basis was the noncommunicating paired cell; above these cells was a cell commander and the came a brigade commander. The next line of organization was a column command consisting of four men, then up to the main strategic command and the small group of policy-makers. Each level was sealed from the next so that the capture of a man or woman at one level would not necessarily lead the investigators to other operatives below or above the person captured.

This system would clearly be seriously undermined by faction because there would then be no natural effort on the part of individual terrorists to find affinities outside the framework. At the same time, the process of erosion was aided by a number of arrested terrorists who offered to give evidence in return for the hope of a lighter sentence. A government Bill is due to be approved shortly by parliament giving the legal basis for the treatment of what are called "repentant terrorists".

Individual contributions from varying levels within the terrorists' movement allowed investigators to build up a gradual and sometimes fragmentary picture of the whole apparatus. The terrorists themselves showed how a kindred spirit who was willing to do exchange baby sitting during the day". In her new home she had to start all over again, and she wrote a letter to *The Guardian*, outlining her predicament, in something of a cry from the heart.

The world that mothers and children live in is also isolated. Many could not exchange anything like a reasonable conversation with another adult during the day, until their husbands came home in the evening. Maureen Nichol, the founder of the NHR, contributes a chapter on the beginning of the NHR and her letter resulted in the National

THE TIMES DIARY



Being cast away alone on a desert island may not be everybody's idea of fun, but being marooned on the same sub-tropical paradise as the Beverly Sisters might fall out or Acker Bill might have a go at George Melly.

Lord Soper, John Mortimer and Lord Robin Day might form some kind of al fresco kitchen cabinet, while Cliff Morgan and Harry Carpenter could organize the hunting. Marie Proops ought to be specially assigned to keep an eye on Jonathan Miller, perhaps the only castaway in the history of the programme to choose a razor blade as his one "luxury" piece of flotsam.

Donkey's friend

John Lockwood, the eccentric who founded Britain's most famous donkey sanctuary was cremated yesterday in Guildford. The lovable black sheep of an illustrious family, who gave up a successful haulage business to devote his life to donkeys, Lockwood achieved notoriety a blow and went on to found his sanctuary at Wormley in Surrey. Starting with just one donkey 25 years ago he eventually rescued a menagerie of no fewer than 500 donkeys, 45 horses, goats, sheep, dogs, cats, rabbits, geese, chickens and ducks.

international merchant banker at the centre of a multi-million pound kidnap in the Argentine and cousin of Margaret Lockwood, the film and stage star, John Lockwood turned his back on big business the day he spotted a man by the roadside savagely beating a donkey. Stopping the car immediately, he felled the culprit with one blow and went on to found his sanctuary at Wormley in Surrey. Starting with just one donkey 25 years ago he eventually rescued a menagerie of no fewer than 500 donkeys, 45 horses, goats, sheep, dogs, cats, rabbits, geese, chickens and ducks.

Fortnum takeaway

Signs of irritation among the normally composed staff may be detected at the Queen's grocers, Fortnum and Mason in Piccadilly.

Some of the longer serving members lost their composure earlier this week when a gang of navies marched into the ground floor to remove the fluted plaster columns which have decorated the central aisle for donkey's years and dismember the hand-carved mahogany food counters with sledgehammers.

The counters are to be replaced with veneered chipboard of foreign manufacture as part of the refurbishment of the floor which, Fortnum's explain, is hardly designed to make things "easier" for customers and partly to celebrate the store's 275th anniversary.

Staff, who regard the changes as uncultured, remain suspicious of the company's announcement that the original items are being preserved until a decision is taken on what to do with them. Moreover, I understand that representations will be made to local conservation organizations.

How many objects to be going to a disco in case I meet a train driver...



Those who lamely suggested the house red, or who agreed that Muscard was "Nice and sweet" were quickly eliminated, and the surviving six faced a grueling quiz on the lines of Mastermind. Pignin, who manages Hamilton's restaurant in Manchester, said afterwards: "Of course most customers know what they want, and I cannot tell them they are wrong. I can only make suggestions. The danger, of course, is that clients now might justifiably take him for something of a know-all."

recommended with fish went on to face a practical test in which a party of diners asked for a wine that would suit both game and veal, determine the best cheese for the meal, and wanted something that would go nicely with fresh pineapple.

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Under the knocker

Geoffrey James, the property developer who brought the Beatles' Apple headquarters far from development has resold the building — with the exception of the front door. A member of the committee at the St James' Club, he has decided that the door (a remarkable item of Beatles memorabilia complete with carved signatures of many of those who used it) should be disposed of at closed auction for the benefit of the club's favorite charity, Guide Dogs for the Blind. The door, now being framed, is expected to fetch up to £3,000 and Leslie Bricusse, the composer of popular music, is regarded as a leading contender for it.

Michael Horsnell

New man at the Tories' research HQ

The remote Peter Cropper starts work on Monday as the new director of the Conservative Research Department, an appointment widely regarded in Tory circles as an attempt by the Prime Minister to retrieve it from its recent period of inactivity. A full-blooded supporter of the Government's economic policies, Cropper's main concerns will be to see that the department is well-oiled for the next election, and to coordinate the preparation of the Conservative manifesto. Mr. Cropper, 54, who replaces the Welsh Alan Howarth as director, has worked for the CRD twice before — from 1951, six weeks before the general election, until 1953, and between 1975 and 1976. During the period between he was an investment analyst and a member of the Stock Exchange. But since 1979 he has been a special adviser at the Treasury. A somewhat grey character, who is married with one child, he is expected to develop a closer liaison between the CRD and the Government. It is no secret that since she became Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher has tended to regard the department as a sort of citadel of Heathite conservatism, and her scepticism, coupled with the fact that the CRD has had comparatively little to do since the party came into office, has sent it into the coldrooms. Cropper told me yesterday: "The CRD has ticked over quite

efficiently, although its size is half what it was in the run-up to the 1979 election. My priority will be to ensure that it is ready and working to cope with the next election. Although that is over two years away we must be ready somewhat before the last moment."

Roads to Rome

Lord Longford has let it drop that, foremost Anglo-Catholic personality though he is, he was not the Church's first choice to write the authorized biography of Pope John Paul II for his forthcoming visit to Britain.

The Vatican's favourite English writer, apparently, was his wife, the biographer, Elizabeth Longford. She, however, had to refuse because she was busy at the time with a book on the Queen. "The only possible reason to have declined", Longford told the annual Authors' Night dinner at the press club. The Pope jostled the Princess of Wales for attention at the dinner, as Longford's address was followed by that of Robert Lacey, author of one of seven books on the Princess to appear in the coming months. Longford has to face competition from only two rival Papal observers, Norman Paul, John Stevas (Faber) and Paul Johnson (Weidenfeld and Nicolson), but both had the advantage of meeting the Pope before they wrote about him. Longford's audience at the Vatican took place only after he finished writing and a photo of his momentous meeting in Rome will decorate the book as a final seal of authenticity.



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ALL ABOUT SOLVENCY

The public finances of the Irish Republic are in a bad way. Ireland took successive oil price shocks in its stride by borrowing and inflating. It was a time of spring-like confidence in the Irish economy. There was a trend of high growth, sunrise industries were being successfully naturalized from the United States, Germany and Japan, and the important farming sector was enjoying unknown prosperity as it rapidly moved up to EEC price levels for its product — an agricultural boom that has duly burst. Nobody wanted to let Opel spoil all that. Better to borrow and print, and Ireland, which had stable government, a good growth record and a population structure of an unusually young profile, found that it also had a high credit rating abroad.

The consequences were succinctly described the other day by Senator T. K. Whitaker, Ireland's most distinguished postwar public servant, who had a great deal to do with his country's earlier economic take-off. "We now have one of the highest inflation rates in the EEC, an external deficit of unsustainable proportions, and an overhang of debt, domestic and foreign, the interest on which alone is absorbing 30 per cent of total tax revenue." The people of Ireland are now more indebted to foreign bankers than the people of Poland. Growth has fallen back to 1 per cent. Unemployment has climbed to 11 per cent.

In last summer's general election Dr. Garret FitzGerald successfully pressed the charge of economic incompetence against Mr. Charles Haughey. He came to power pledged to restore the public finances by cutting the deficit and reducing dependence on foreign creditors. But the coalition out of which his government was formed was festooned

with other political pledges that interfered with that objective.

Worse, with his overall majority of minus three, Dr. FitzGerald had to rely upon the parliamentary support of a handful of independents of varying shades of socialism. It was that that gave way on Wednesday night.

His government's budget was a courageous attempt to embark on the uphill road to solvency. But Dr. FitzGerald had boxed himself in. While the cost of maintaining the activities of government as a constant level, continued remorselessly to rise, his ministers failed to achieve a significant net reduction in public expenditure for the coming year. To make matters worse, the government had just awarded a 16 per cent pay rise to its overlarge army of overpaid employees, and had to budget for an 18 per cent increase in the bill for pay and pensions in the public sector. (Echoes of the first year of Mrs. Thatcher's government.)

The central fiscal promise Dr. FitzGerald had made the electorate was to cut the standard rate of income tax to 25 per cent, compensating as necessary out of indirect taxes. The budget did not cut the standard rate, but it could hardly in the face of that promise put it up. So with no reduction in expenditure, no scope for higher rates of income tax and no stomach for capital taxes, the deficit could only be cut by raising sales and excise taxes. That the budget proposed, giving another sharp kick to inflation. It proved too much for Dr. FitzGerald's fragile parliamentary majority. Mr. Haughey has immediately accused ministers of exaggerating the seriousness of the nation's financial disorders, in which he shows his consistency since he made light of

WANTED, A LAY-OFF CLAUSE

Of all the 18 clauses in the Employment Bill, published yesterday, the one that would be most useful, if enacted, to British Rail in its dispute with Aslef is one which has been left out. The dispute is costing BR £14m a week, largely because the terms of its contracts with its employees make it uncertain that it has any legal right to lay off and have to be paid even when there is no work for them to do. A clause enabling an employer to lay off workers in such circumstances, as proposed by the Engineering Employers' Federation, would do much to restore the balance of industrial power in dispute where small groups of workers are strategically placed to bring large organizations to a halt.

Of course, the fact that such a provision would help one side in one current dispute is not proof in itself that it would be desirable or just. But the strong interest that the outside public have in settlement bringing gains in productivity, as well as the even stronger interest in the same thing of the majority of railway workers who have already accepted the need for flexible rostering, both demonstrate the enormous leverage power that a small industrial group can wield in

the absence of such a clause. Aslef is able by itself to block the improvement of efficiency in their large and heavily subsidised service industry even though it represents only a tenth of the workers in that industry. Many other groups possess similar power in other industries. There is in such cases an imbalance of industrial power.

A lay-off clause would be little help to a management trying to push through changes against the entrenched opposition of most of the workforce; in that case it would merely have the effect of uniting them against him all the more strongly. But it would be a valuable tool of industrial diplomacy to help isolate a destructive minority. There would need to be safeguards for the pension and redundancy rights of innocent bystanders laid off, and due notice of the management's intentions. The law already provides that a minimum of five days' pay must be given to workers laid off through lack of work, as frequently occurs in the motor industry. It would be against natural justice for employees to be laid off under this clause because of disputes not directly involving their unions or their employers.

TURKEY'S EUROPEAN CREDENTIALS

The parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe has adopted a very sensible attitude to the problem of human rights and democracy in Turkey, which is one of the Council's 21 member states.

The Council is an association of democratic states, formed with the specific object of upholding the value of democracy and freedom, including human rights. Its greatest achievement has been the European Convention on Human Rights with its machinery, unique in international relations, of a Commission to investigate complaints and a Court to adjudicate them. It has no powers of enforcement. The only sanction it can use is condemnation and, in the last resort, suspension or termination of the offending state's membership.

Precisely because it is the last resort, the expulsion of a member-state is not something to be decided lightly or hastily. Every attempt must be made to use the machinery of the Council to restore freedom and human and political rights to the citizens of the state in question before the decision is reached that they can only be helped by casting their government, so to speak, into outer darkness.

The case of the Greek dictatorship of 1967-74 provides the now-classic precedent. The colonels seized power in May 1967. A complaint against them was for-

mally lodged with the Human Rights Commission by three Scandinavian governments in September of that year. The Commission took two years to complete its investigations and it was only in December 1969 that the Council of Ministers was ready to decide on Greece's expulsion — a decision forestalled by the Greek government's last-minute withdrawal.

It is now 16 months since General Evren and his colleagues seized power in Turkey. Yet a recommendation for Turkey's immediate expulsion from the Council would certainly have been premature. For one thing, the political circumstances in Turkey are far less clear-cut than they were in Greece. A strong case could be made for saying that democracy had already broken down, with stalemate in parliament and terror in the streets, before the military takeover occurred, and that a period of authoritarian rule to set the country back on its feet was inescapable. For another, the specific allegations of human rights violations have yet to be investigated by the Commission. Under the terms of the resolution, this should now be done.

The Commission's procedure is secret, and is bound to take at least some months. Rather than taking umbrage and walking out of the Coun-

Scientific output in Britain

From Professor P. V. Danckwerts, FRS

Sir, Professor Hobbs (January 25) quotes content-analysis of scientific periodicals in the decade 1970-1980 to suggest that British scientific output declined during this period. It may have done so but the statistics are irrelevant unless one can first define "scientific output" and then correlate it with the number of publications in scientific periodicals.

I have been editor of an international journal of engineering science for over 20 years. The main change in the nature and number of the papers submitted over this period has been that they have increased in number, the proportion coming from the USA and the Far East as against Europe has increased and there has been a large increase in the number of contributions from universities. The pressure to publish is obvious, while it is difficult to get interesting contributions from industry, where much of the relevant research and development is done, because there is a lack of incentive or even an actual disincentive to publish. The unfortunate result is that much of the material actually published tends to be infilling rather than an expansion of the frontiers of knowledge. I have not been aware of an absolute decline in the value of the contributions from British universities. I think it would be extremely naive to try to deduce from the number of articles or words published by British scientists or engineers the value of their contribution to useful knowledge. If one must indulge in such chauvinistic exercises there are other more reliable indicators.

Yours,
PETER DANCKWERTS, FRS,
Department of Chemical Engineering,
University of Cambridge,
Pembroke Street,
Cambridge,
January 26.

From Mr P. A. B. Whitmer

Sir, Professor Hobbs' letter (January 25), drawing attention to the comparative decline in British scientific research output between 1970 and 1980 certainly does deserve serious consideration although probably not in the way he intended. As management consultants we have observed during this period a marked movement of high grade scientists from research into industry. This trend has been particularly noticeable over the last two years covering a wide variety of functions and characterised by a large proportion of scientists setting up their own businesses.

We appreciate that these changes may diminish this country's prestige in the scientific world, but we applaud and encourage a belated recognition by our best brains of the value of science to be found in the industrial sphere.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. B. WHITMER,
The Welbeck Group Limited,
Panton House,
25 Haymarket, SW1,
January 27.

Open secret

From Mr Michael Robbins

Sir, Your report from Bonn (January 23) that "secret" plans by Hitler for a very broad gauge railway across Europe have been unearthed. Such a railway was certainly planned, was indeed one of Hitler's personal schemes; but "secret" in the sense that nothing has been known about it until now, it was not.

It has been mentioned in Hitler's Table Talk (1951), Albert Speer's memoirs (1969), and W. Maser's Hitler (1971); the eminent French railwayman Louis Armand had described how Reichsbahn engineers consulted with him on the subject during the war and early of 1970; and particulars of the locomotive designs, 52 axles and all, were published in a German magazine in the same year.

But if Herr Joachimsthaler's new book gives any explanation of Hitler's extraordinary idea it will help to throw light on another aspect of that remarkable character.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ROBBINS,
7 Courthouse Villas, SW19,
January 24.

Better informed?

From Professor Denis Pym

Sir, This Information Technology Year your paper so noisily acclaims in a special report (January 14) smacks of yet another imposition in the name of progress. Do we need the information technology officers? Will it elevate the human condition or just make a monkey out of man?

In my view too much of the content of the information technology we've already got is indistinguishable from noise and too much a substitute for experience, everyday experience like doing things for ourselves, thinking, relating to others, living. Of course, it serves some commercial interests and it sustains "make-work" employment, and it keeps us in the happy, dependent, in consumerism of junk. But as an imposition it only degenerates the human soul.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS PYM,
Professor of Organizational Behaviour,
London Business School,
Sussex Place,
Regents Park, NW1,
January 18.

Rail blacking 'The Times' and 'The Sun'

From Lord Hunt

Sir, I read with some concern your leader article, "The union censors" your issue dated January 26. You say that you find it sad that so few people have felt willing or able to speak about "this blatant limitation" on the free flow of information imposed recently by some members of Aslef in refusing to carry copies of Murdoch Group newspapers out of King's Cross, on grounds of an article in *The Sun* to which they objected, notwithstanding the advice of their General Secretary not to be provoked.

As one of the members of the Royal Commission on the Press, 1974-77, I write to support your views in strongly condemning such action, particularly following the undertaking given by two union officials to the High Court.

But there is another side of the coin. You make the valid point that "the press does not claim to be perfect. It claims to be free". This is fundamental to our democracy. But it is no less fundamental that the press, like the train drivers, bears a heavy public responsibility, should also act responsibly. I find it sad that you should have made no mention of this.

Can you seriously claim that it was a responsible decision on the part of the Editor of *The Sun*, other than in purely commercial terms, to give front-page, banner headline treatment, at a time of such sensitivity over the dispute with the railwaymen, to allegations made regarding malpractices by certain train drivers? While it was obviously right that such revelations should be reported, the sensational treatment of the subject matter, tending to convey the impression that such practices are rife, was most unwise and probably unjustified.

By my book, it was a blatant example of editorial indiscretion.

Yours truly,
JOHN HUNT,
House of Commons,

Social sciences

From Professor Charles Feinstein and Professor Alan Williams

Sir, Professor Ferris (January 21) is right in pointing out that it is ultimately the taxpayer who supports social science research, but the rest of his letter does not contribute very helpfully to a clarification of the fundamental issue, which is how much and what sort of social science research should the taxpayer be supporting? There are essentially three criteria which should appeal to the community:

1. The extension of our capacity to understand the society in which we live;
2. The extension of our capacity to improve that society (e.g. its economic performance or its social policies);
3. The development of a critical apparatus that would enable us to judge the extent to which any actual or proposed reforms are, on balance, beneficial.

The problem of research support is, then, one of finding channels for directing finance to those people who are most likely to succeed. This is intrinsically a high-risk enterprise, in which the reasonable strategy is to carry a diverse "portfolio" of "investments" with different "funds" pursuing different policies (i.e. giving different weight to each of the criteria mentioned above).

The University Grants Committee and the universities and, to some extent, the research councils (including the SSRC) should be giving relatively great weight to 1. Government departments are more likely to be attracted to 2 (assuming that prerequisite work under 1 is being supported through other channels), and although they should be equally interested in 3, this may prove to be very sensitive, and its findings unwelcome, so it is likely to be approached with considerable

Consular service

From Lady Marley

Sir, Petty theft in the street is a hazard to which we are now exposed as a simple, if regrettable, fact of life. The inconvenience is compounded, however, if it happens to occur abroad. Having had my bag snatched just after noon on a recent Saturday in Paris (and having also just cashed a cheque), I found the attitude of casual bystanders, as of the police themselves, a revelation of kindness and efficiency.

But the British Consulate? Yes, they could issue a temporary passport for a fee of £3, but regretted that there would be an additional charge of £17 for service "out of hours" i.e. after 12pm on Saturday. £20 in all, then, was the price to be exacted of a taxpayer British subject for the privilege of returning to his own country, with — so far as they knew — no friends, no contacts and not so much as a Metro fare. The kindly French couple who accompanied me to the police station, from which I telephoned the consulate, were as appalled as I was.

Yours faithfully,
DOONIE MARLEY,
104 Ebury Mews, SW1,
January 18.

JPs' justice

From Mr David Wolchover

Sir, In their encomium reported today (January 25) on the better quality of justice in magistrates' courts as against the crown court, the Justices' Clerks Association appear to have forgotten why jury trial is so often the preferred choice of defendants maintaining their innocence.

It is now nearly half a decade

Jewish reference in Benn speech

From Professor J. P. Stern

Sir, Fascism in Europe is dead, but its rhetoric lives on.

In likening you and your colleagues to the Kapos of the German concentration camps (report, January 27), Mr. Benn has done what demagogues always do. He has found a metaphor connoting the greatest conceivable vilification and applied it to a hostile collective of his own invention. Appealing to his audience's real or imagined ignorance of the past (there were no gas chambers in Dachau), he tries to divert our attention from a humdrum and uncomfortable issue of domestic politics.

Does he really not know what a corrupt press is like? Or was it all said in the heat of the moment, a moment of righteous indignation? Nietzsche knows better:

In all great deceivers a remarkable process is at work, to which they owe their power. In the very act of deception with all its preparation, the dreadful voice, expression and gesture, amid their effective scenario they are overcome by their belief in themselves; it is this belief which then speaks so persuasively, so miraculously, to the audience.

Yours, etc.
J. P. STERN,
Department of German,
University College London,
Gower Street, WC1,
January 28.

From Rabbi David Goldberg

Sir, I have tended to regard Mr Westwood Benn as like one or two of his political contemporaries, not so much as sinister as amiably loony. Now I am not so sure. In your report (January 27) of his meeting with the Farringdon branch of the National Union of Journalists, you quoted him as saying that journalists who write what they are told to write are using "the Nuremberg excuse" and "their role in society" should be likened to the Jews in Dachau who herded other Jews into the gas chambers.

One can detect, just, a train of thought associated from Nuremberg to Dachau. But to compare working journalists, even at their most craven, to Nazi war criminals or with pitiable wretches desperately trying to save their own lives in a concentration camp, displays either monumental tastelessness or, I would more charitably prefer to suggest, an imagination so fevered that it is in urgent need of psychiatric attention.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. GOLDBERG,
17 Bartholomew Villas, NWS,
January 27.

Proper names

From Lord Norwich

Sir, It started off well. Only a few months after I succeeded to my father's title, I handed over my shiny new passport — in which the prefix "The Right Honourable" was written out in full — to the receptionist at the Slon Hotel, Ljubljana, and was duly inscribed in his register as the one thing I had always wanted to be: Mr R. J. R.

Since then, however, I have gone steadily downhill. There was a bad moment some years ago when another receptionist, ashen-faced, handed me a sinister-looking envelope on which I was addressed as "The Vice Count" but even then the depths were not yet plumbed. The ultimate — I hope — humiliation came only quite recently, when I received a missive addressed to me in the style according to which I now sign myself — as.

Your obedient servant,
The Discom Norwich,
JOHN JULIUS NORWICH,
24 Blenheim Road, W9,
January 25.

Making a contribution

From Mr R. J. Ress

Sir, Supporters of the present government often make a distinction, as Mr Heseltine did on *Monday Night* last week, between what they call "wealth producers" and the rest. This is extremely irritating to those of us (nurses, doctors, dustmen, teachers, etc.) who do what we think of as useful work but do not count as honest-to-goodness WPs.

If politicians must go on making this silly and invidious distinction they might at least tell us which class they belong to. Do MPs, and even PMs, count as WPs?

Yours faithfully,
R. J. RESS,
Manor Farmhouse,
4 Millway,
Grantchester,
Cambridge,
January 25.

Tank think

From Mr Richard Need

Sir, Petrol (refined by a complex process from precious fossils) costs about £1.70 per gallon; an increase in this price by a few pence frays tempers and makes news.

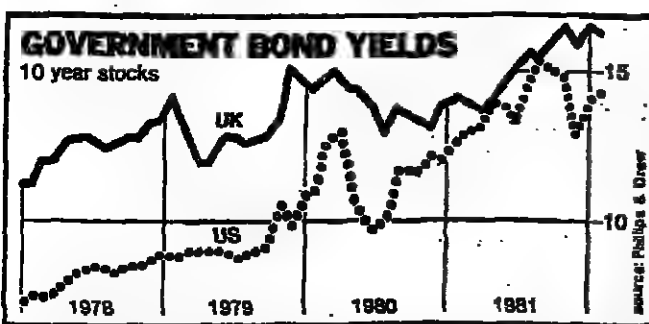
Yesterday I was told that my gin-and-tonic would cost an extra twopenny because the tonic (4 fl oz) had gone up from 24 pence to 26 pence. This means that tonic (water plus traces of a few cheap additives) now costs £10.40 per gallon due to an overnight increase of 80 pence per gallon.

Everyone in the bar paid up without a murmur.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD NEED,
49 Bonner Hill Road,
Kingston Upon Thames,
Surrey,
January 26.

BUSINESS NEWS

London looks to NY



Government bonds is another area where, since the abolition of United Kingdom exchange controls, the behaviour of the London market has come to depend more and more on what happens in New York, the London market moving into second place trading during the afternoon once United States markets have opened. Yesterday, the London market was further boosted by news that the Bank of England had refused to issue its new index-linked stock on a real yield of higher than 3.05 per cent — a price of £90 per cent.

Scrutiny for yen financing

The Export Credits Guarantee Department is studying two applications for cover of finance denominated in yen. If granted, the cover would be the first under the consensus interest rates agreed last October, and British exporters could offer customers cheaper credit than is available in sterling.

Japan has agreed to allow the export of yen to finance what are expected to be mainly credits for buyers of British and American goods. The United States Export-Import Bank is also studying yen credits.

It is understood however that the Japanese Ministry of Finance has limited Japanese banks to a total of between 10,000m and 20,000m yen. The ministry is concerned that too large a capital outflow would depreciate the yen.

CEGB sites named

Seven sites suitable for the development of Britain's combined heat and power stations have been identified by the Central Electricity Generating Board. The sites, which are meant to serve the six leading cities identified by the Department of Energy, are Barking for London, Ascroft and Carrington for Manchester, Elders' Ferry for Merseyside, Dunston for Newcastle, Neepsend for Sheffield, and Leicester.

Setback for DRG

Bristol-based DRG, the packaging and stationery group, revealed yesterday that profits at its 70 per cent owned South African subsidiary, which account for a quarter of total profits, could be halved as a result of reporting discrepancies.

The company said it had discovered discrepancies between stated selling and actual selling prices in goods sold to South African schools and colleges. At least one manager has been dismissed.

MARKET SUMMARY

Gifts manage late rally

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 578.8 up 4.9
FT 100 64.86 up 0.40
FT all-share 328.28 down 0.14
Bargains 19,194

A strong opening on Wall Street proved a late boost to equities, which drifted down throughout the day but closed up 4.9 at 578.8.

Gifts rallied after a hesitant start to close as much as 2 1/2% higher in long dates and 2 1/4% better for short-dated issues.

This was after news that all tenders for Treasury 2750m 2 1/2% per cent index-linked stock £90 paid and above had been elicited in full.

Elsewhere, Irish shares were marked down in early trading on the fall of the government but they closed above the worst.

Bank of Ireland lost 15p to 225p, and Allied Irish Bank 4p to 85p but Guinness was up 1p to 71p.

Leading industrial shares ended mixed with some gains after the strong opening on Wall Street.

Glaxo recovered from the previous day's losses up 2p to 480p while ICI was also better at 340p, up 4p.

Engineer and contractor Babcock was in demand and closed up 4p at 96p after substantial buying and the prospect of a bid.

The brewing sector was depressed by a statement from the chairman of Bass, who told the group's annual meeting that a three-week strike and bad weather would hit profits in the present half year. Bass ended the day 4p lower at 210p.

Other leading brewery shares were initially marked down but recovered later with leaders Whitbread up 1p at 99p and Allied Lyons also 1p ahead at 74 1/2p.

Garath David

COMMODITIES

After a strong rally earlier in the week coffee fell back yesterday in fairly quiet trading. The March contract closed at \$1,183.50 a tonne.

COFFEE

£ per tonne
London March 1982



It also eased, the cash contract closing at £8,655 a tonne, down £117.50 during the day. But the backwardation with the three months contract which finished £23 lower at £9,027.50, remains wide. High prices are reported to have deterred consumers from using the market.

TODAY

Sales and orders in engineering industry
Car and commercial vehicle production
Sir Michael Edwards at Newspaper Society lunch, London

OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,395.30 down 6.93
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 7,803.85 down 22.70

CURRENCIES

The pound met steady demand in a quiet market. The dollar, too, was generally quiet.

STERLING \$1.8720, up 45 pts
DM 4.36
Fr.F 11.085
Yen 433
DOLLAR Index 110.2, up 0.4
DM 2.3270, up 78 points
GOLD \$383.75, up \$2.25

MONEY MARKETS

Rates were little changed. The Bank bought £275m of bills at 13 1/4% in response to a forecast shortage of £250m.

Domestic Rates:
Base rates 14 per cent
3 month interbank 14 1/4-14 1/2
Euro-Currency Rates:
3 month dollar 14 1/8-15 1/8
3 month DM 10 5/16-10 3/16
3 month Fr.F 15 1/4-15 1/2

Recession claims 1,230 more jobs

By Clive Cookson

Four companies in the engineering, tyre and carpet industries gave the Government a sharp reminder of the harsh trading conditions that still face British businesses. As the Cabinet held its crucial discussion yesterday on future economic policy, the companies announced a total of 1,230 redundancies.

But employees of the Christie-Taylor furniture company have averted job losses at its eight factories in South Wales by accepting pay cuts of up to 10 per cent. They were told that hundreds of redundancies would be necessary unless costs were cut and productivity improved.

While public attention in Belfast yesterday was focused on the future of the De Lorean car plant, 400 workers were declared redundant at one of the city's best known engineering companies. The jobs will disappear between now and the end of April at the textile factories run by the 140-year-old family firm of James Mackie and Sons.

Mackie's workforce will be run down to 1,300. Little more than a year ago it employed 3,000 people. Management and unions have agreed to approach the Government jointly for special consideration, in the hope of avoiding even more redundancies — a difficult move for a proud firm that has previously shunned state "charity".

Carpet International announced a complete reorganisation of its British manufacturing operations, which will mean the closure of two mills — Dean Clough, Halifax, and New Road, Kidderminster — and the loss of more than 500 jobs.

The company said the severe market recession in the United Kingdom made the measures "essential to consolidate the trend towards restoration of group profitability". In contrast, exports are doing well.

Similarly, Avon Rubber quoted the need to withstand severe trading conditions in the tyre market as the reason for making 250 people redundant at its main factory in Melksham, Wiltshire.

Avon said the redundancies would affect all categories of employees — staff, engineers and rubber workers — though individual notices would be sent out only after full consultation with the four unions involved.

The Peterborough engineering company, Peter Brotherhood, said it had reluctantly decided to cut the workforce by 80 because "no early end to the recession can be anticipated". More ominously for the future, Brotherhood is also considering a significant cut in its apprentice training scheme.

The Cabinet met yesterday to consider its options for the Budget on March 9, but the Chancellor has little room for big tax cuts and other concessions if he sticks to the outline of his medium-term financial strategy (MTFS), according to City analysts.

The version of the plan published last March envisaged public sector borrowing falling from 4 1/2 per cent of national output in 1981-82 to 3 1/2 per cent in 1982-83. This would imply a public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) of £9,000m in the coming financial year, compared with about £10,500m this year.

Treasury calculations are thought to show that the £9,000m PSBR target is well within reach. Buoyant tax revenues due to higher than expected inflation, the proceeds of North Sea asset sales (put at between £500m and £1,500m), and £1,000m of

into effect in April. If the Chancellor wanted to give effect to the direction of Tory "wets" who are demanding deflation, he could opt for a slightly higher PSBR — up to about £10,500m — and still stick to the spirit of the MTFS by keeping the PSBR falling as a percentage of national output. This would provide a further £1,000m to £1,500m for tax cuts.

The maximum deflation permitted by the MTFS, however, amounts to no more than 1 per cent of national output and would have a correspondingly limited impact on output and employment.

In broad terms, each £1,000m the Chancellor has to give away would buy a 1p cut in the basic rate of income tax or a 1 percentage point reduction in VAT, or a 1 percentage point cut in the employers' National Insurance Surcharge.

Mr Richardson added that he thought it would be accepted that the general stance of policy, fiscal as well as monetary, was firm. There was confidence that a more realistic approach had not meant a weak one. It was essential that this confidence should be preserved.

The Governor reiterated the danger of too much mortgage lending slipping through into consumer expenditure. But he welcomed the competition between banks and building societies, as leading to a more efficient service in the provision of housing finance.

Mr John Little, chairman of the Finance Houses Association, said that he expected FHA members to have ended 1981 with record outstanding balances of over £10,000m (Peter Wilson-Smith writes).

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Mr Nigel Lawson, Energy Secretary, arriving at yesterday's Cabinet meeting

Big tax cuts unlikely in Budget

By Frances Williams

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into effect in April. If the Chancellor wanted to give effect to the direction of Tory "wets" who are demanding deflation, he could opt for a slightly higher PSBR — up to about £10,500m — and still stick to the spirit of the MTFS by keeping the PSBR falling as a percentage of national output. This would provide a further £1,000m to £1,500m for tax cuts.

The maximum deflation permitted by the MTFS, however, amounts to no more than 1 per cent of national output and would have a correspondingly limited impact on output and employment.

In broad terms, each £1,000m the Chancellor has to give away would buy a 1p cut in the basic rate of income tax or a 1 percentage point reduction in VAT, or a 1 percentage point cut in the employers' National Insurance Surcharge.

Mr Richardson added that he thought it would be accepted that the general stance of policy, fiscal as well as monetary, was firm. There was confidence that a more realistic approach had not meant a weak one. It was essential that this confidence should be preserved.

The Governor reiterated the danger of too much mortgage lending slipping through into consumer expenditure. But he welcomed the competition between banks and building societies, as leading to a more efficient service in the provision of housing finance.

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taxes due in 1981-82 but not collected because of the civil servants' dispute, will more than outweigh higher public spending.

The Treasury's sums assume that the Chancellor will this year reactivate the so-called Rooker-Wise amendment which obliges him to raise personal tax allowances in line with inflation. Sir Geoffrey Howe's failure to do this in the last Budget meant a rise in the real tax burden on incomes.

The sums also assume that he will index-link excise duties on drink and tobacco, which will bring in extra revenue.

In addition, however, the Chancellor has room to give away about £1,000m in extra tax cuts while remaining within the £9,000m borrowing target. This would just about offset the 1 per cent rise in national insurance contributions announced in December which are due to come

into effect in April. If the Chancellor wanted to give effect to the direction of Tory "wets" who are demanding deflation, he could opt for a slightly higher PSBR — up to about £10,500m — and still stick to the spirit of the MTFS by keeping the PSBR falling as a percentage of national output. This would provide a further £1,000m to £1,500m for tax cuts.

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Governor defends Bank role

By John Whitmore

Fresh from his recent success in warding off the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation's attempt to gain control of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, last night spoke up strongly in support of the Bank's role at the heart of the United Kingdom banking system.

After saying that the wide measure of self-regulation and voluntary agreement which underpinned the vigour of our financial system could not be taken for granted he said "the customary authority of the Bank, exercised steadily and in rational discussion — not by mysterious occultic contortions on my part — is vital to this underpinning. That is why I have done my best to uphold it".

Speaking to the Finance Houses Association, the Governor also emphasised the need for a flexible but firm approach to monetary policy.

He said that flexibility of approach had become associated with the now well-known fact that policy has regard to a number of indicators, including the exchange rate, rather than to any single monetary aggregate.

"Although this might give the impression that policy is ad hoc, it would suggest that the steadiness and consistency of our behaviour in pursuit of the ultimate objectives of policy is more important than the apparent intellectual coherence and presentational simplicity of concentration on a single monetary aggregate," he said.

Mr Richardson added that he thought it would be accepted that the general stance of policy, fiscal as well as monetary, was firm. There was confidence that a more realistic approach had not meant a weak one. It was essential that this confidence should be preserved.

The Governor reiterated the danger of too much mortgage lending slipping through into consumer expenditure. But he welcomed the competition between banks and building societies, as leading to a more efficient service in the provision of housing finance.

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Ms Smith did take note

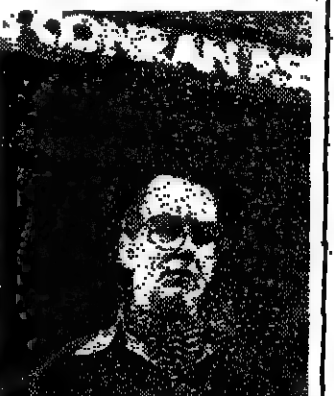
Christina Smith, former secretary to the Habichtshaus, finds herself in the position to dictate to her former boss.

Ms Smith has bought at auction the freehold of Conran's Covent Garden design studios next door to his Neal Street Restaurant, for more than £200,000.

After working for Conran before he got Habitat going in the 1960s Ms Smith set up her own company, Goods and Chattels, marketing household goods. Habitat became her first large customer. She later set up two shops in Covent Garden but still makes regular buying trips to China as Habitat's agent.

Taking advantage of stagnant prices when Covent Garden market moved across the river to Nine Elms, Ms Smith set about converting warehouses into offices, studios and shops, later negotiating long leases or buying the freehold. She now controls more than 170,000 sq ft of commercial space in an area where property values are climbing once again.

She lives on the top floor of a former warehouse directly above Conran's restaurant. A perfect position for a landlady to keep an eye on her tenants.



Landlady Christina Smith yesterday.

Adam-style mini computers

Adam Osborne is a Briton who made good in the United States but is now back in Britain trying to make even better.

Osborne, 42, left this country 20 years ago and subsequently founded his own software house Osborne Computer Corporation. He is back in Britain to set up a British subsidiary to market his first venture into hardware — a portable microcomputer the size of a small sewing machine.

This is the Osborne 1, which has a built-in video screen. It is meant for the workaholic who wants to take the computer home — and he can use it in the car as well.

Osborne tells *People* that one of his battery pack portables is already bumping around Africa with chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall.

Mitterrand's men of steel

A former oilman, Raymond Levy, aged 54, is to succeed Claude Etchegary as head of France's biggest steel company, Usinor. At another newly-nationalized steel firm, Sacilor, Jacques Mayoux is to be replaced as chairman by a civil servant, steel specialist Claude Doll.

These steel appointments have been announced before those at the banks, because steel was not included in the nationalization bill.

Levy, a former deputy chairman of Elf Aquitaine, was widely expected to get the Usinor job after an earlier appointment as chairman of Aciers Speciaux, a Usinor-Creusot-Loire specialty steel joint venture.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Gordon Alexander and Mr Philip Plumridge have been appointed corporate finance directors of the newly-formed large corporate division of Barclays Bank.

Mr Peter J. Hall has been elected chairman of the Hire Association Europe.

Mr John S. Harris, Mr John C. Piley and Mr Richard W. Smith have been appointed directors of Henderson Unit Trust Management.

Mr A. J. Taylor has been appointed director of Arundell House Securities.

Malcolm Brown and Edward Townsend

How Mr De Lorean ran into a roadblock

Mr John Zachary De Lorean is a gambler. On Wednesday night he flew into London for a crisis meeting with Mr James Prior, the assembled television cameras that in one important respect motor companies were like banks: if their credibility was damaged, customers took to the hills.

But, said the founder and chairman of the De Lorean car company, he would fight on and he was sure that after the Prior talks he would have something for the Press which would please them.

It was almost as if De Lorean, who looks and sounds as though he was drawn straight from the Central Casting List of top American industrialists, was daring fate to lead him a bad card.

It did. At 1am yesterday Mr De Lorean emerged from his talks with the Northern Ireland Secretary with the message that there would be no further assistance for the Dummurry, West Belfast, company.

He had come seeking £36m in financial guarantees from the Export Credits Guarantee Department. With that denied, major redundancies and a recasting of the Dummurry operation were inevitable.

The question now is whether the De Lorean Motor company can survive. Can it draw in its horns and sweat out the American recession — America is the only market for the gull-winged car — or is it on the way towards total collapse?

The prognosis is not good. According to Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, the company had made 7,681 cars by the end of last year. By January 15 only 4,756 had been sold to dealers in America and only 3,085 retail sales had been reported.

In short, a large number of cars are either in stock or in transit. They have to be financed and money is short. Whether the car is salable or not becomes almost a secondary consideration at a time like this. Nor are the dealers' contractual commitments to buy 43,000 cars under their agreements with the company of much consolation. There would be little benefit for De Lorean in pushing dealers to the wall.

The priority must be to finance the growing stocks. Mr De Lorean needed Export Credit Guarantee Department backing if he was to be able to raise money from the banks to keep the whole operation at its present level in anticipation of an upturn later this year. Without it he is in trouble.

As one observer put it yesterday: "One is looking forward to a three-month period of chickens coming home to roost in the company."

As Mr De Lorean is well aware, the absence of government backing could bring a lot of related problems in its train. Suppliers who have extended credit to the De Lorean company will start to press for repayment. Dealers in the United States, some of whom have already found their own credit lines being shortened, could now come under even heavier pressure. Even those dealers who are shifting cars will

project only three months ago (at a time when allegations about company dealings were casting a cloud over Mr De Lorean). Mr Mason described the reservations which he had to overcome in Whitehall. Three months on, those reservations do not seem so ill-founded as Mr Mason seemed to be suggesting.

The Department of Trade was concerned that the cars were going into a single market — the United States. The Treasury was concerned about the cost. The Foreign Office asked whether a market survey had established that there was a market.

The company although it has been planning to sell into the Middle East, Canada and even Europe as business built up — is still selling into a single market, America, and that market has stalled. The costs have clearly become too great for the government to bear and the question whether there is really a market for the car remains largely unresolved.

The downturn in the American car market has been a crucial factor in bringing De Lorean's troubles to a head. In a good year America can support a market of 10.5m new cars. Last summer, however, as De Lorean was handing over his first £205,000 royalty cheque to the government, analysts were still predicting that more than 9m cars would be sold.

But the expected second half recovery in the market never materialised, and by the end of last year only 8.5m new cars had been sold in the United States. Reflecting that downturn was a small, but not insignificant pointer from some De Lorean dealers that they were now selling the cars at a discount.

The assessors now ordered in by Mr Prior to run a slide rule over the De Lorean operation will have two things to decide: first whether there is a prospect of the American car market in general and the market for two-seater sports cars in particular, picking up; secondly, whether the De Lorean company, as at present structure, could fully exploit such a market.

There will certainly be a seasonal upswing in the American car market this spring, but few experts would put their money on that being sustained throughout the year. Most analysts are looking towards 1983 for the resurgence of the market, but that, it is stressed, very much depends on America pulling out of the economic doldrums over the next 12 months. How the

specialist part of that market will fare will be even more difficult to gauge, but the assessors will certainly want to explore why it was, that the company's attempts to raise cash on Wall Street have been so troubled.

That in turn will lead them into an investigation of the structure of the company and of the place in that structure of John Zachary De Lorean.

Certainly before the Dummurry project Mr De Lorean had built up a formidable and later very controversial — track record. The son of a millwright at the Ford Motor Company foundry in Detroit, he progressed — after a short spell selling life insurance — through the ranks of Chrysler and Packard. Finally, in 1956, joining the Pontiac division of General Motors.

It was to be a 17 year sojourn at GM ending in some acrimony when he resigned in 1973, disillusioned with the direction that General Motors was taking. But in those 17 years he worked his way towards the \$650,000 a year in salary and bonuses and ultimately had

De Lorean: key dates

July 1981: First quarterly royalty instalment of £205,000 paid to government.

August 1981: First proposed Wall Street flotation of shares in De Lorean Motors Holdings.

October 1981: Police begin investigation of De Lorean after allegations by Mr Nicholas Winter MP of financial irregularities. No evidence of criminal conduct discovered. Mr De Lorean issues libel writs against seven defendants.

November 1981: De Lorean recalls 2,200 cars sold in America for rectification of suspension weakness.

January 1982: Wall Street flotation postponed.

January 1982: Mr De Lorean seeks further government guarantees for loans of £36m via the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

almost certainly be more inclined to pay off their own debts to the banks with the sale proceeds, rather than re-order more vehicles from Dummurry.

The De Lorean car plant was born in a blaze of publicity in 1978. It seemed like a godsend to the then (Labour) Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Roy Mason. Faced with appalling unemployment in West Belfast, Mr Mason fought a long, hard battle to ensure that the American car maker should be given a chance in the province.

He faced considerable scepticism from other government departments. In an article in defence of the



The Belfast factory — born in a blaze of publicity. It seemed like a godsend to the then Secretary of Northern Ireland, Mr Roy Mason

Reaching for the sky in Hongkong

Later this year scores of Chinese families will camp out on the floors of the commercial district of Hongkong, each group manually digging out one hole for the building's foundations in the time-honoured tradition of the colony. Then, as the building progresses, it will be clad in the bamboo scaffolding that has always encased Hongkong's growing office blocks.

From that low technology base is going to rise the world's most adventurous and technologically advanced skyscraper. It is the new £200m headquarters for the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, an architectural commission won by the London firm of Foster Associates in an international competition 2½ years ago.

The striking feature of the overall design is that, unlike other tower blocks, it has no central core to support lifts, services and floors. Foster has put that obstruction on the outside.

The floors are suspended from beams between the steel masts of the bank's outer frame. All the lifts, toilets and services such as water, power, heating and cooling are clipped onto the east and west faces of the building — nothing gets in the way of the open office space.

The so-called Vierendeel masts which support the skyscraper have been used before for small structures like footbridges, but never for a building. Each mast is a close group of four tapering steel columns, braced at every storey by short steel rods.

Architects have traditionally been suspicious of Vierendeel structures because they are liable to deflect. But

the computing power available today enabled Ove Arup and Partners, Foster's consulting engineers, to design masts strong enough for the bank, by calculating the most effective stiffness of the columns and the cross-bracing.

During the typhoons that occasionally hit Hongkong, the bank's side walls will have to take as much horizontal force as the vertical loading on the floors or, as Mike Glover of Ove Arup put it: "It's like having everyone in a football stadium standing on the outside."

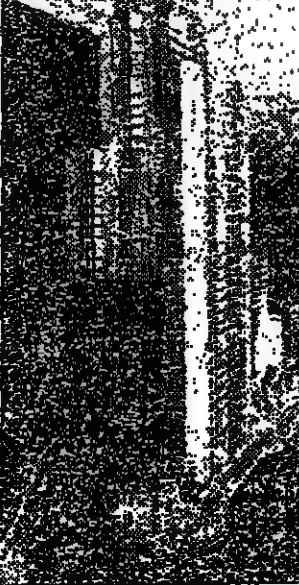
Foster and Arup have conducted extensive wind tunnel tests at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, with a scale model of the bank and the surrounding buildings, to measure the wind patterns and ensure that the structure can withstand the strongest gusts. The results have been incorporated in a precise computer model of the building.

Another technological advance which helped make the building possible was the aircraft industry's development of extremely light but strong flooring. This material, composed of an aluminium honeycomb, will be used for the bank's raised floors. It can be taken up very easily to gain access to the electrical, telecommunications and computer cables beneath.

The suspension technique allowed Foster to break out of the claustrophobic uniformity of most office buildings, vertically by a central lift to the floor you want. In the bank a specific outer lift will take the visitor non-stop to one of four large intermediate spaces — twice the height of a normal office storey —

TECHNOLOGY: ARCHITECTURE

By Clive Cookson



An impression of the 41-storey headquarters for the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, designed by Foster Associates of London and due to be completed in 1985.

full of greenery, water and cafes.

From that atrium, escalators will take people up or down to their own office floor.

The building will be broken-down into a cluster of vertical villages rather than an institutional whole," said the chief architect Norman Foster.

Surprisingly, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank will

gain significant extra space from Mr Foster's "more human" design. The absence of a central core allows 73.5 per cent of the building's interior space to be used — conventional skyscrapers achieve 65 per cent at best.

Britain's main contribution is the 25,000 ton steel frame, ordered from the British Steel Corporation for £50 million. The contract for the service modules went to Japan, while the United States is providing the bank's "cladding" (the outer covering of glass and aluminium, including sun control louvers).

The construction technology will allow the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank unusual flexibility to change the building after it is completed. The design is as large as the complicated local regulations permit on the tight site; the skyscraper must allow a certain minimum level of light to fall onto the streets around it. But if the laws change — as they frequently do in Hongkong — or if nearby buildings are redeveloped, the bank could expand by 30 per cent without altering its basic structure.

Interior lighting is an area in which Foster has been particularly innovative. For example an elaborate system of concave exterior mirrors and internal reflectors will "scoop" natural light into the five-storey high banking hall at the base of the building. The hall will have a translucent glass floor which sends the light down into the basement during the day, and glows with artificial light from below at night.

The office ceilings will be a sophisticated arrangement of curved mirrors, reflecting as much daylight and communal

artificial light as possible onto the workers' desks. The bank's electricity consumption should be cut substantially as a result.

In addition, staff will have individual ceiling spotlights over their desks. They will also have more control over their "microclimate" than in the traditional airconditioned building, with their own vents to provide hot or cold air, like passengers in a spacious airliner.

Norman Foster is obsessed with aeroplanes and flying. Many of his ideas, which strike the building industry as daring high technology, are merely transfers of standard practice in the aircraft industry. An example is "superplastic aluminium", which British Aerospace had used widely in aircraft components before Foster picked it up for his Sainsbury Centre at the University of East Anglia.

Base Lending Rates

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (%)	Yld %	P/Fully	Actual	Taxeds
122	100	98	ABN Bldgs 10% CULS	122	—	10.0	8.2	—	—	—
75	62	60	Airsprung Group	69	—	4.7	8.8	10.0	15.2	—
51	33	31	Armstrong & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5	—
285	187	185	Bardon Hill	205	—	9.7	7.7	10.0	12.1	—
104	82	80	Deborah Services	85	—	6.0	7.3	4.1	7.7	—
130	97	95	Frank Horrell	130	—	6.4	4.9	11.7	24.1	—
78	39	37	Frederick Parker	78	—	1.7	2.2	33.5	—	—
76	46	44	George Blair	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	91	IPC	94	—	7.3	7.8	6.8	10.2	—
105	100	98	Isis Conv Pref	105	—	15.7	15.0	—	—	—
113	95	93	Jackson Group	95	—	7.0	7.4	3.0	6.7	—
130	108	106	James Burrough	113	—	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.0	—
334	250	248	Robert Jenkins	254	—	31.3	12.3	3.5	9.0	—
35	51	49	Scruttons "A"	56	—	5.3	9.5	8.6	8.0	—
222	167	165	Torday & Carlisle	167	—	10.7	6.4	5.4	9.3	—
15	10	9	Twinklco Ord	13½	—	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	64	Twinklco 15% ULs	75	—	15.0	20.0	—	—	—
44	27	25	Walter Holdings	27	—	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2	—
103	75	73	Walter Alexander	75	—	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7	—
263	212	210	W. S. Year	218	—	13.1	6.0	4.1	8.4	—

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

Business Editor

The Budget that never was

The Irish Dail may have thrown out the proposed 1982 Budget and forced an election into the bargain, but it is difficult to see how the Irish electors are going to escape some nasty medicine whichever party returns on February 18.

The truth of the matter is that the Irish economy is in a terrible mess and, in the view of some observers, heading rapidly towards a major crisis.

In other words, if the new government does not do something to put the house in order, then it may not be all that long before the IMF has to be called in to do it for it.

Ireland, it is true, has not seen the recession in quite the same way as Britain. The growth rate has slowed appreciably from its average of almost 10 per cent through the 1970s but at least real GNP did expand last year, albeit by only 1 per cent. Possibly one might argue that but for the unemployment rate of over 13 per cent would have been higher still.

The point, however, is that these marginal advantages have been bought at enormous financial cost and the writing is on the wall. Inflation has been running at more than 20 per cent; the public sector borrowing requirement has been up to 17 per cent of GNP; and foreign exchange reserves are no more than the equivalent of two months' imports.

In that context, the proposals of the defeated budget to bring the PSBR down to about 14-15 per cent of GNP were hardly outrageous. Unless a new government sticks to that kind of aim, step number one may well be a devaluation within the EMS. But it is the medium term consequences of not getting on top of the situation that should perhaps be worrying Ireland most.

After all Ireland remains a country keen to sell itself to foreign industrialists and attract overseas capital.

The price is considerably higher than historic levels (British prices vary from 7p per therm for southern gas to nearer 20p for Frigg gas). But it is less than what BP, for example, has said is necessary for future supplies in the North Sea — around 30p per therm landed — and very considerably less than the oil price which the Algerians and, at times, the Norwegians have been urging as a well-head price.

The implications could be extremely important, not least for Britain and the debate over Nigel Lawson's gas legislation. In the first place, it must affect Norway's strength as a seller of gas into North-West Europe.

If the Continental buyers can afford to be choosier than they have in the past, then Norway may look again at the United Kingdom as a market for its exports. In the second place, the Russian gas deal could also undermine the oil industry's hopes of gaining oil price parity for North Sea gas.

The Russian deal raises the base price considerably from current supplies but aims to restrict the scope of price rises for future supplies. For the larger fields, this may not matter so much. But for the smaller fields, already deprived in many cases of easy transportation because of the collapse of plans for a central gas gathering pipeline system in the North Sea, it could prove the difference between producing gas or leaving it in the ground.

Gas prices

Russian factor

Has the price of gas, like that of oil, peaked? This is one implication of the contentious gas supply deals being negotiated between the Russians and the French and Germans at prices well below what might have been expected only a year ago.

Gas prices are, of course, notoriously difficult to interpret. Despite Energy Secretary Mr Nigel Lawson's fond beliefs, there is no open market in gas. Prices are determined on long-term contracts of 20 or 25 years, in which the escalation clauses are as important as the starting price. The buyers are monopoly utilities and the fact that gas must be transported by pipeline greatly restricts the jostling of buyers and sellers.

But the Russian sale of large volumes of Siberian gas to the European market in the late 1980s is as important in energy market implications as it is in political terms. The volumes are such that the Russian gas will be worth more than 100 million cubic metres a year — as to threaten a potential surplus when they come into the market in five years' time.

Major European buyers — France, Germany, Italy — could be in serious problems indeed in coping with the decline of the vast Groningen gas field which supplies most of their needs. With Russian gas, and lower demand, the buyers could, for the first time, be in a position to bargain seriously with other potential sellers such as Algeria, Libya and possibly even Norway.

This, in turn, coupled with the Russian determination to find a steady source of foreign currency over the coming decade, has encouraged the Soviet Union to settle for an attractive price of around 27p per therm and apparently reasonable escalation terms.

Gilts

Bank says 3%

The Bank of England's decision not to supply applications for the new indexed-linked gilt at a price below 90 — where the yield is about 3 per cent — looks eminently sensible. In case of a collapse, the done is to spell out to fund managers precisely how far it can be pushed, and by doing so it should produce greater stability for this particular market in future.

Apart from not wanting to concede a real return grossly over the odds per cent, the Bank did of course also need to keep the return to a level that would not undermine the present yields on conventional stocks too. Hence the bounce in the market yesterday afternoon.

Mortgages

Index problem

An index-linked home loan scheme has, on the face of it, a number of advantages for the investor that the borrower. But the Building Trust, a new unauthorised unit trust, claims £60 million worth of applicants for its new index-linked home loan scheme.

from the Building Trust pay interest building society rate, and they would currently borrow at 10 per cent. But 50 per cent of the loan is linked to movements in the house price index, which means that homebuyers are potentially giving away some 50 per cent of any capital gain realized on their home.

Robin Ellison, managing director of the Building Trust, is confident that there will be no shortage of applicants. But there are potential pitfalls — particularly for the first-time buyer who requires a high percentage loan. House prices vary widely from region to region. Over the past year some areas have seen actual decreases of anything up to 10 per cent in house prices. The average for the country as a whole has been an increase of around 5 per cent.

Some borrowers could quite easily see the value of their particular property falling, at the same time as their loan was actually increasing. Caveat emptor.

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